

Shining light on our vibrant communities

by Wil Polson

Nimbin’s streets were buzzing once again with life, laughter, and a warm feeling of nostalgia as the Illuminate Nimbin micro-festival took place on Friday 24th June.

Music filled the air, with buskers stationed along Cullen Street serenading the crowd and setting the scene for a captivating evening.

Clusters of delighted children, faces painted and fists full of free snacks provided by local businesses, gathered around street performers, their cheers of joy echoing down the street.

As the sun set, the village was illuminated with lightshows and projections, creating dazzling displays across Nimbin’s heritage-listed muralled façade.

Uncle Gilbert Laurie led a procession of lantern-carrying pre-schoolers and primary school students in a smoking ceremony, enveloping the village in the aroma of Country and inviting us to share in our First Nations People’s deep knowledge, connection, and responsibility for the land we call home.

A Welcome to Country in the hall kick-started the official program for the evening with school bands, belly dancers, live music and a magician keeping the audience enthralled into the evening.

The aim of Illuminate was to provide a free, family- friendly event for community to come

together and reconnect after a tempestuous few years.

Feedback from the Nimbin community and street businesses who participated in the event has been overwhelmingly positive, and has prompted the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce to consider seeking funding opportunities for more community-orientated events in the future.

Seeing throngs of children get excited, get involved and make similar memories to what we did growing up in Nimbin, I think, is the best demonstration of the event’s success.

Illuminate Nimbin was supported by a \$15,000 grant from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment through the Festival of Place – Summer Night Fund and a \$5000 contribution from Lismore City Council.

This event was a Nimbin Chamber of Commerce initiative, supported by Lismore City Council, that provided an opportunity for the Council to work alongside the Chamber on a specific local initiative to support the renewal of Nimbin as the dynamic and flourishing business centre it used to be.

A special thank you to the program co-ordinators Kylie Cain and Samara Burcher, without whom this magical event would not have been possible.

More photos on p.32



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Forest defenders Malveena Martyn, Ian Gaillard, Dee Mould, Naomi Shine with their lawyer, Eddie Lloyd.

Justice for the Cherry Tree Four

All charges against the four forest protectors who were arrested in November for defending Cherry Tree State Forest from logging were dismissed on Friday 24th June.

Malveena Martyn, Naomi Shine, Ian Gaillard and Dee Mould, collectively known as the 'Cherry Tree Four' were relieved to have had their efforts exonerated by the Kyogle court.

Ms Shine said she was proud of what she had done. "Cherry Tree is a beautiful native forest and the wildlife corridor is part of it so valuable," she said.

Ms Martyn was clear about why she was involved in the protest: "We want logging in public native forests stopped."

"The Forest Corporation has been doing what it likes for decades," she said.

The group's lawyer, Eddie Lloyd said, "in submissions today, the magistrate accepted that we were living in a climate crisis and agreed that these climate change warriors were just trying to protect endangered and threatened species from death by Forestry Corp logging in Cherry Tree State Forest."

"These warriors of the forest, who are held in high regard and seen as leaders

in our community, should never have been dragged to court," she said.

"There is something seriously wrong with laws that criminalise community leaders for trying to save our planet. There is something seriously absent in our laws that this forest was not protected and that the Forestry Corp were able to log in this significantly biodiverse hotspot," Ms Lloyd said.

"Civil disobedience is what activists are forced to do when the Government prioritises protecting vested interests over the protection of our planet," she said.

Does Lismore Council hate trees?

by Chibo Mertineit

The other day I drove down Woodlark Street in Lismore and saw a big earthmoving machine at the corner of Dawson Street.

I pulled over and saw that this machine had already killed a few trees next to the big drain which runs under Dawson Street. I returned later and saw the machine emptying the drain contents onto the back of a truck.

I'm more than amazed to see that after the huge loss of trees through the bushfires less than three years ago, it seems that Lismore council workers couldn't just cut off some branches to create access for the loading truck to the drain.

On Thursday 23rd June, I went to the Lismore Council Chambers to protest the logging of koala trees planned for a new development and attended their rescission motion meeting at 4pm.

Lismore Council voted to keep the 60+ trees in their ordinary meeting. (Listen on second Tuesday from six and on livestream on their website, easy to follow.)

Now, nine days later, the mayor and some Councillors wanted to change this decision. Over 30 people turned up to protest and six of them spoke to Council about the importance of these koala trees.

The outcome is now that Council will talk about



it again at their July 12 meeting.

Maybe some people want to contact their Councillors and tell them that once they've killed all the koala trees and the now-declared endangered koalas, there won't be many tourists seeing any reason to visit Lismore in the future.

But then this is National Party Territory, and most of us will remember the major fish kills from 2019/2020 along the Lower Darling River and Menindee Lakes.

Or when Catherine Cusack crossed the floor on the controversial 'Local Land Services Amendment Bill 2020' and lost her job as Parliamentary Secretary trying to protect the koalas.

That the NSW Government coalition is unable to oversee the work of the Forestry Corporation, which was financed with 22 million taxpayer dollars in 2020/2021 is hard to believe. They just got fined a few weeks ago \$285,000 for

breaking their own rules.

Not only are our native forests getting turned into woodchips and sold overseas, the latest is the burning of trees for electricity production right here in Condong and Broadwater.

So where is the public outcry about all that? Taxpayer dollars are

being used to destroy our native forests, wildlife and biodiversity.

Trees need more than sixty years to start forming the hollows where over 170 species of our unique wildlife can then nest and roost. And this all after we lost so many of them through the fires.

No wonder that more and more people will do acts of civil disobedience, lock on, protest or just write to their politicians. The United Nations declared a 'Code Red' situation last year.

Mid-October this year, Nimbin will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Mt Nardi protests against the logging of that area which is now part of the Nightcap National Park.

It's time to act now. Stand up for forests, check the North-East Forest Alliance website: nefa.org.au

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Community to lose railway infrastructure

If the new NSW Transport Amendment (Rail Trails) Bill gets passed, all rail corridor land that is not currently being used – including railway zoned land from Lismore to Byron Bay – will be given to the minister for railway tracks to be ripped up.

The Minister for Regional Transport will have complete control of what can be done with this land.

The Amendment Bill will allow the minister to approve the land to be used for tourism, recreation, roads and road infrastructure. The minister can terminate an existing authorised lease.

Jan Mangleson, president of Northern Rivers Rail Ltd said, “This is a blow to the 300,000 residents of the Northern Rivers who over decades were slowly deprived of train travel by the State Government as the services in the Northern Rivers were neglected until the final XPT train service was closed in 2004.

“The railway line provided reliable public transport for the Northern Rivers population from when it was opened in 1894. Train services were removed on this line against huge public opposition in 2004. Most residents in 2022 want the train services back again.

“The solar train at Byron Bay is a show-stopper for tourists and residents alike. It demonstrates what is possible. Several organisations in the Northern Rivers region are working together to open a community railway company to run train services once again and to extend on this solar train service. The intention is to provide commuter, tourist and heritage services on the line.

“This region of the Northern Rivers hosts one of the top tourist destinations in Australia, Byron Bay, a huge tourist hub. The fact that there is no reliable train-based public transport in this area is a disgrace. Visitors are caught up in traffic jams on local roads which are the only means of transport in the area.

“Rail Trails do not provide essential



The Byron solar train

public transport needs for the population of the Northern Rivers and our huge numbers of visitors. The Rail Trail needs to be designed as an off-formation add-on to a regular train line. This exists in Bathurst, the electorate of deputy premier Paul Toole.

“It would seem this Bill has been tabled to crush the opportunity to return effective railway transport to the Northern Rivers and other large regional populations in NSW. The Bill should not be supported.

“The railway line was constructed as flood-free by those 19th century pioneer engineers,” stated a former local railway engineer. “As an important future strategy in flood recovery and mitigation, the return of rail services using the flood-free railway line would play a significant part in mitigating issues such as community safety, delivery of food and medicines, transport, freight delivery and flood

recovery.”

Jan Mangleson said, “In the case of an important public transport route such as the Casino to Murwillumbah line servicing a large population, major public railway transport lines should never be closed at the whim of the transport minister, or the rail trail lobby.

“It is a myth that the majority of residents in regional areas prefer to have a rail trail rather than a railway service. In the Northern Rivers, NRRL offers the sensible option to have both.

“We ask all MPs to check the wishes of their constituents especially those residing in the regional electorates that will lose their railway lines. There should be consultation before legislation.

“NRRL requests the NSW State parliamentarians to delay any vote on this matter until the people in regional NSW can have their say. This is important, especially in the lead-up to the State elections in March 2023.”

An invitation to tell your flood story

by Antoinette Ensbey

After the flood events we keep hearing an endless stream of stories. It seems everyone has a story to tell about risky rescues that went on all night, losing beautiful hand-made furniture, a buckling timber floor underfoot, homes destroyed that had been lovingly restored over years, and about rescuing people and pets in small tinnies. There are after-stories too, things happening unexpectedly, good and bad.

The stories about the flood disaster need to be told and kept in the record books. The stories are part of who we are; part of what shapes our lives, our kids’ futures; and what puts us on the alert. On a broader scale it’s knowing how deep and devastating disasters are to the people who live through them, so that we as communities are able to attest to the disaster and have a voice to ask for accountability and resolve.

I’d like to collect, compile and publish some of these stories told by you, the people of the Northern Rivers



who wish to share their experiences with the wider community.

I am amazed at the resilience of this community. Amazed at seeing the love heart appearing everywhere as a symbol of reconciling people towards hope, and giving the disaster a human face, a face of strength, power and love.

Take stock and tell others how the life-changing floods impacted you. Tell the story in your own words. Tell it raw. Talk about the experience, the shock, the sorrow, the whole thing. Talk about receiving help,

the rescue, the support by individuals and community groups. If you like, and if you are ready, turn the disaster into an opportunity to recover and heal.

Flood Stories Northern Rivers is an invitation to share your story of the March 2022 flood disasters. Over the coming months I will be collecting stories. I then will produce a special podcast series over several weeks.

You can email your flood story to: oimstories@gmail.com or record it on your phone. Emailed stories will be narrated on the podcast. Recorded stories will simply

be added to the podcast. If voice recording isn’t for you, a written piece detailing your experience would be wonderful. If you wish, keep your name out. The stories are all anonymous. If you have a poem to share that would be much appreciated too.

One more thing: I’d like to put some local music to the stories. If you are playing an instrument or are singing, you are most welcome to send in your recording. Your piece may even be selected as the signature tune.

Meanwhile I had the amazing offer from Norm and Magenta to use their music, a composition and compilation of film music that so well reflects the mood of the area, from the mountains down the rivers to the sea. Their music will complement your stories in a wonderful way while rekindling some deep grounding and love.

Flood Stories Northern Rivers. Talk about it, share the experience. Heal gently with storytelling. For further information, phone me on 6687-2511.

NAIDOC 2022- Get up! Stand up! Show up!

by Teresa Biscoe, co-ordinator,
NAIDOC Organising Committee

The annual Nimbin NAIDOC day celebrations are happening again on Friday July 8th after cancellations last year due to the pandemic lockdowns. It is wonderful to have an opportunity to enjoy, support and celebrate the Culture and Survival of our First Nations people and particularly the Widjagal Waibal people of the Bundjalung Nation on whose country we stand.

This year's theme is, Get up! Stand up! Show up! It was inspired by the Federal Labor Government's commitment to the full implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. The Nimbin NAIDOC organising committee is inviting community organisations, local businesses and members from the community to sign a pledge that we support and endorse the Statement.

The Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre will have a stall with a copy of the Statement for people to sign. This is an opportunity for the non-indigenous community to demonstrate our support and commitment to walking together and healing the hurt caused by the invasion and subjugation of this Country.

The day will begin with the Survival March at 10.30am from the Nimbin Hospital along Cullen St and into Allsopp Park. We hope that the town



2020 NAIDOC celebration of the Bundjalung Widjagal Dancers

will turn out and show our support for the march.

Artists Oral Roberts and Daniel Wilson have been working hard at the Waibal Culture Centre in Nimbin, painting up an incredible piece of work that will be the banner for the march and event.

Once the marchers have assembled in Allsopp Park, and the NAIDOC banner is hung up, Elder Auntie Marie Delbridge will welcome us all to the country and Uncle Gilbert Laurie will perform a smoking ceremony to start the proceedings.

This will be followed by traditional dance and song from local identity Steve Didge and the Bundjalung Widjagal Dancers. We will then have an afternoon of great entertainment with Black Boi, Billy Smith, Roland and Monkey and

the Fish lined up to show some of the amazing indigenous talent we have in the area.

There will be stalls providing information and disaster support from Koori Mail and the Neighbourhood Centre. Ngulingah Nursery will have a variety of native plants, Jullums will offer health advice, and the CWA and volunteers from the Neighbourhood Centre and the Waibal Culture Centre will offer a great range of delicious cakes, drinks and foods.

There will be face painting for the kids and a raffle featuring an original painting by Gilbert Laurie, two art prints from Oral Roberts, NAIDOC t-shirts, and more.

All are welcome in this celebration of culture, resilience and survival.

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Towards the Nimbin Aquarius 50th



by Benny Zable, president
Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc

A most inspiring community meeting took place in the Nimbin Town Hall on 16th June. It was about preparing a preliminary plan and costing for the Nimbin Aquarius 50th anniversary calendar.

Organised by David Hallett on behalf of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, a circle of around 20 people gathered to share ideas for events they would like to participate in. It was chaired by Dave Hyett, President of the Nimbin Chamber of Commerce, who began by paying respects to the Wyabal/ Widjabul traditional owners, elders past, present and future.

It was good to see in attendance several members of Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc.

David Hallett presented a first draft of the calendar to us. Some great ideas followed from the circle to add to the



Nimbin Town Hall Aquarius meeting on 16th June. Photo: Oren Siedler

calendar, which needs to be completed and submitted by the end of July to the Lismore Council and other government bodies to be eligible for funding.

The meeting was filmed and photographed towards an Aquarius documentary to be shown next year in cinemas around Australia.

We at Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc.(NAFI), are continuing to expand on the program which complements that of the Nimbin Chambers of Commerce.

The next NAFI meeting will be on Friday July 15th. from 3.30pm onwards in the NCC Comskool. There are requests to expand the Aquarius 50th celebrations throughout the Rainbow Region. It needs people to task these

requests of course. All interested in helping are welcome.

"The Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Incorporated (NAFI), acts as an umbrella organisation to facilitate Aquarius Festival anniversaries, and has done so since the 20th anniversary in 1993. The Aquarius Foundation operates as an information, ideas and energies exchange network fostering the Spirit of Aquarius."

For membership and further enquiries, email us at: aquariusnetworking@gmail.com or phone Benny Zable on 0427-149-237.

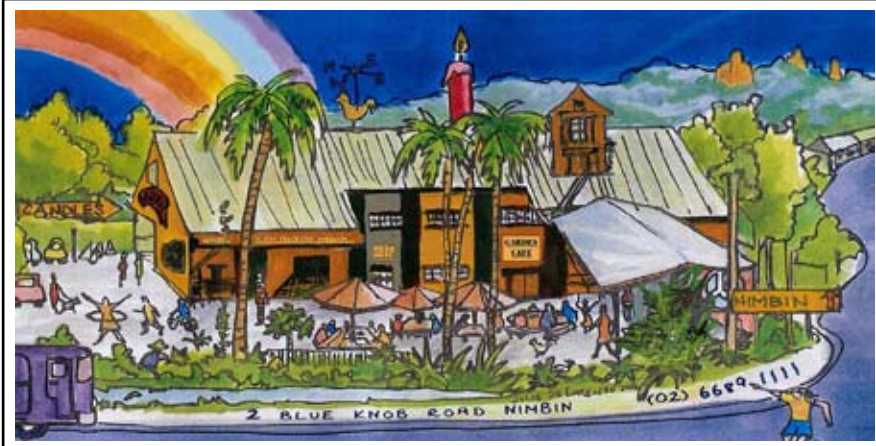
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In your neighbourhood...

Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre News

NAIDOC Day: Friday 8th July

After last year's cancellation due to Covid, one of the very best events on the Nimbin calendar is back! Yippee! Come along and join in the march and the festivities at Allsopp Park in the centre of town.

Disaster Assistance and Information

Good news! The Disaster Relief Grant is now available to support repairs to internal driveways and roads and other damaged infrastructure caused by landslips and washout. The close date has been extended until August 2022.

If you need help to complete the application, contact us at NNIC and make an appointment, phone 6689-1692. See: www.nsw.gov.au/resilience-nsw/disaster-relief-grant-for-individuals for more info.

Important Advice to successful grantees: keep all records and receipts. Anyone who has obtained a Back Home (Services NSW) or Disaster Relief Grant (Resilience NSW) is reminded that it is highly

possible you may be audited in the future to check whether you spent the funds according to your application.

To avoid problems down the track, be sure to retain all your receipts etc., and make back-up copies on to your PC, USB peg, and phone if possible.

Geotech/Geostructural engineers

NNIC is attempting to ascertain the outcomes of the Geotech assessments done in our area back in April 2022. Watch this space for more info.

New service – Disaster Recovery Case Management

NNIC will commence comprehensive case management of disaster-impacted people in our catchment area from August 2022 (depending upon recruitment).

Our catchment area is the Northern Lismore area (North of Goolmangar, including Dunoon, the Channon, Keerong, Koonorigan) plus our nearby Tweed LGA areas

(up to and including Uki, Doon Doon) or Kyogle LGA (Larnook, Wadeville, Barkers Vale, Lillian Rock etc).

Residents in the Kyogle and Tweed Shires will be able to access Disaster Recovery Services based in Kyogle and Tweed LGAs if you prefer. Lismore LGA residents will similarly be able to choose a Lismore-based service if that better suits your needs.

The program is entirely voluntary and will involve up to two years of support to achieve your recovery aims and get your lives back to as normal as possible. Anyone who is on our existing case list will be invited to participate in due course.

Anyone not already on our case list is most welcome to register with NNIC for ongoing disaster recovery support. Contact us on 6689-1692 and request to be added to the RSS case list.

The NNIC program will include expertise around Rural Land-Sharing Communities (aka MOs) and the impacts of landslips and washouts. In the meantime, NNIC is continuing to operate as the Response and Recovery Assistance Centre for the Nimbin area.

The additional staff from Resilience NSW/Services Australia will continue to attend at NNIC on a fortnightly basis as from 1st July.

In the past few weeks NNIC has distributed around \$65,000 in vouchers to disaster impacted residents. The funds came via our Emergency Relief program plus the funds raised via the Nimbin Flood Appeal.

These funds are now exhausted. We did all that we could to get the funds out to as many impacted people as possible. Thanks so much to everyone who has donated to our Flood Appeal to date.

Positions Vacant

NNIC is now recruiting for Disaster Recovery Program staff. See the advert in this edition of NGT. Job kits can be downloaded from our NNIC website: www.nnic.org.au

Membership renewals

All NNIC and Tools Library memberships expire on 30th June. Drop into NNIC to renew your memberships.

Membership to NNIC is \$5.50 per year, and your membership is very valuable to us. Tools Library membership is \$22 per year and you must be a NNIC member to be a Tool Library member.

To see the list of equipment go to the Sibley Street website – Tools and Equipment Library tab: www.7Sibley.org

Peace Park amenities block

We were disappointed to learn that another Nimbin initiative was voted down by Council at the June meeting.

This issue has been on the table with Council for around 10 years, and the existing amenities block that services the Nimbin Pool has been identified by both Council and the community as being below standard.

The amenities block attached to the pool is only open when the pool is open and therefore closed for around half the year, leaving users of the Peace Park recreational area, and in particular the children's playground and the outdoor exercise equipment, without any nearby toilet or bathroom facilities.

Friends of Nimbin Swimming Pool have lobbied Council for many years and eventually took the initiative to propose a model. Council staff indicated support for the idea and the Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) went ahead and used its own funds to commission a draft design for the amenities block.

Council staff estimated the cost of the project, and the NAG was advised to submit the project for consideration at the next budget meeting, which 13 community members, including NAG members, duly did, only for it to be declared to be a 'whim' by Cr Rob at the June Council meeting, leading to the majority of Councillors voting against it.

Ten years seems like a pretty extended 'whim' to us.

Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Services

We assist frail aged people, NDIS participants and carers to stay living at home and connect socially.

All NACRS support workers are qualified, certified, experienced, police checked, Covid-Safe trained, insured and locally based.

SOCIAL CENTRE with Veranda – Monday-Friday 10am-2pm. Drop in for a cuppa, access support services, info and computers.

DEVICE ADVICE – Wednesdays 9.30am-1pm. Seniors can book for assistance with phone, tablet or laptop issues.

SENIORS SOCIAL GROUPS – booking and fees apply

- Nimbin Tuesday Morning Tea, 10.30am-1pm. Tea/coffee, conversation, music and snacks, weekly \$5
- The Outsiders Group 1st and 3rd Thursday, 11am-2pm at various rural cafes, self-funded plus donation to NACRS
- Wise Ones at Koonorigan Hall/Dunoon 4th Monday, 11.30am-1.30pm, bring a plate to share
- Bus Outings – 2nd and 4th Tuesday. Scenic drives, cafes for morning tea & lunch (you pay), bookings essential, fees apply.

Phone 6689-1709 or visit NACRS at Bottlebrush Studio, the rainbow building at Nimbin Community Centre.

www.nacrs.com.au



Nimbin Hospital information

Child immunisation

By appointment, please phone 6630-0400.

Early childhood nurse

Every Tuesday. Baby checks, weighs, post-natal support. For appointments, phone 6630-0400.

Women's health nurse services

Confidential service, checks, advice, general health information. Phone 6688-1400 for appointment.

Wound clinic

Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8am. For self-referral, phone 6688-1433. Referrals also from Nimbin Hospital and GP clinic.

Drug and alcohol counselling services available

For an appointment, please contact 6620-7600. A trained professional will ask you a few confidential questions and will provide you with an appointment time.

Nurse practitioner clinic

- Diabetes clinics: third Thursday of the month, next is 21st July.

Community Registered Nurse

Monday to Friday, 8am-4.30pm. Assessments, wound care, referrals, advocacy, provision of palliative care in the home, medication support. Phone 6688-1433 – leave a message, will return call swiftly.

Nimbin NSP

Needle and Syringe Program open Monday to Thursday. Arrangements can be made to see a Community Registered Nurse.

Health advice line

Phone 1800-022-222 if you have a health issue. 24-hour, seven days a week, free service. A Registered Nurse will assess whether you need to go to an Emergency Department.

Nimbin Hospital Auxiliary

Monthly meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of the month, 9.30am in the CWA room. New members are most welcome.





Koala protest at Limore Council’s June meeting. Photo: Chibo Mertineit

by Triny Roe, Secretary

The 2022-23 NSW Budget delivered a few wins for the environment, but there is still a long way to go.

Forests

Cate Faehrmann for the Greens presented a bill in NSW Upper House to establish a Great Koala National Park, but this was not supported by Labor, who feared the park would then be under the control of an under-funded department in a hostile government. Koalas (now listed as endangered) and other wildlife require urgent habitat protection if they are to survive in the wild.

Forestry Corporation have once again demonstrated they are unable to log responsibly.

The Land and Environment Court fined them for illegally removing feed trees and making logging tracks through a Koala High Use Area in Wild Cattle Creek State Forest.

This was not a one-off occurrence. It is the sixth breach incurring fines since April 2020 and they are now facing prosecution for a seventh.

Fridays4Forests continue to meet weekly to protect our native forests and raise awareness. Get updates on their facebook page.

Make environmentally-sound choices when building with wood: ask where it came from and choose sustainable plantation grown timber.

Energy

Concerns have been raised about exploration plans for a potential site to build a geothermal plant for electricity generation near Casino or Kyogle, but indications are that this technology is not quite ready.

A \$4 million plant built at Winton in 2019 has failed to deliver and is not currently operating. Other projects planned for Queensland have been shelved.

Geothermal uses either naturally occurring underground hot water or deep hot rocks to heat pumped water. It is less



toxic than burning domestic rubbish and building waste for power, which has also been suggested for Casino.

While geothermal has been used successfully in heating projects, electricity generation in Australia could be problematic due to lack of suitable sites that can produce a high enough rate of hot water.

The NSW State government has announced \$1.2 billion investment in renewable energy and this is great news as long as it doesn't mean clearing forests for wind farms or burning wood chip or rubbish for energy.

Coal Mining

22nd August marks the one-year anniversary for the cultural camp at Waddananggu. Coedie McEvoy and traditional owners of Wangan and Jagalingou country in the Gallilee Basin have re-occupied their tribal land, which is currently being mined by Adani/Bravus.

Changing the company name to Bravus has not made dirty coal any cleaner. It still contributes to global warming and uses astronomical amounts of water in the process, threatening the nearby sacred

Doongmabulla Springs.

Supporters are invited to join in a week of workshops, music and ceremonies at Camp Waddananggu. More information is available on their Facebook page.

World Environment Day

This will be celebrated on 17th July in Knox Park, Murwillumbah. Talks, music, children's activities, food stalls, from 10am to 3pm.

Caring for the environment starts at home. Please keep your furry family members under control.

Cats are major killers of wildlife, as are dogs. Ensure cats are shut in at night.

Don't let your dogs take themselves for long walks, and please leash them when you come to the village.

Environment Centre

NEC meet every second Wednesday of the month at 5pm in the Community Centre. New members and visitors always welcome.

The NEC shop at 54 Cullen Street, staffed by volunteers, is open 7 days from 11am to 4pm or thereabouts. It stocks a range of local, organic and free trade products.

If you've never been in, drop by and see what you've been missing out on.

Community Centre News

by Teresa Biscoe, co-ordinator

We've all been feeling the chill in the last couple of weeks with the winter solstice on the 21st of June having come and gone. But the chill is welcome while we enjoy the wonderful clear and sunny weather.

My heart goes out though, to all the rough sleepers who haven't got a warm and safe space to shelter in, or those who, due to rising energy costs, can't afford to heat their homes.

Thank goodness we have the totally awesome Nimbin Neighbourhood and Information Centre (NNIC) and the CWA Nimbin Branch. Both these organisations work tirelessly to support and care for those people in need in our community.

The NNIC continues their work providing food to those in need with the Food Bank project, washing, phone and electricity vouchers, access to Centrelink and other Government Agencies, counselling and referrals to support, as well as access to the internet and printing.

I know that they have worked extra hours throughout the Flood disaster recovery to link victims of the event to the support and funding agencies they need, accept and manage donations and to provide whatever they can to those who have lost everything.

They continue to provide on-going support for victims of the disaster to help them get through the funding process, and provide advocacy to funding bodies to ensure that those affected by landslides (which represents many of the people affected in the community) can also access the disaster relief funding. If you have been affected and have not yet sought assistance, please contact them on 6689-1453 and they will do all they can to advise and assist you.

The CWA Nimbin Branch works closely with the NNIC, and swung straight into action when the disaster hit, as they did in the 2019 bushfires. They collected and stored food and clothing donations for disaster victims, cooked meals for elderly and vulnerable people, organised boots and generally tried to support the NNIC recovery effort.

They continue to provide support and are

opening their room at the Nimbin Community Centre every Wednesday between 10am and 2pm. They are located next to the Sibley Street carpark in the Nimbin Community Centre, and have secondhand clothes, and home-baked goodies available and usually a warm pot of soup.

All sales of clothing or baked goods go towards the various community projects that they support like the Pay the Rent Fund for the Waibal Culture Centre, an annual bursary for students at Nimbin Central School and towards the rent on their room.

The Nimbin Community Centre is proud to have these organisations as tenants. They remind us all of why the community worked so hard to keep the old school site in community hands all those years ago. Both these organisations rely on volunteers and community support to help keep them going. We hope the community continues to support and appreciate the valuable contribution these organisations make to the village.

Along with the Waibal Culture Centre, Nimbin Aged Care and Respite Service, NNIC, and the CWA, Nimbin Community Centre is helping co-ordinate the Nimbin NAIDOC 2022 celebrations on Friday 8th July.

The celebration will be held on Allsopp Park and it promises to be a great day of community, culture and entertainment. It is wonderful to have the opportunity to show our appreciation and support for our First Nations people in this proud display of survival and culture.

The Waibal Culture Centre needs more support to help pay the rent and keep the Centre going. Anyone interested in supporting the Waibal Culture Centre can contact the Nimbin Community Centre either by phone (02 6689-0000) or by email: nccl@nimbincommunity.org.au and we will let you know how you can help.

This event and the work of all the wonderful community groups and other tenants at the Community Centre remind me how lucky we are to have such a caring and cohesive community. If you don't know about this, check out our website: www.nimbincommunity.org.au or pop into the Nimbin Community Centre and have a wander around.



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Sun 10th: Learn to make a cob rocket stove – with Russel Collins, founder of the smokeless cookstove revolution in India. Low cost, simple materials, minimal fuel, take home your own. Two-day workshop off-site, \$100 bookings essential.

Sun 17th: Cob rocket stove, Day 2

Tues 19th: Knitting with Sue – 3rd Tuesday

Sat 23rd: Make your own felt slippers, shoes or boots – two days \$100, or \$75 Day 1 only, All materials and morning

tea provided.

Sat 30th: Felt shoes Day 2 – finishing with soles

Regular events

Spinning and Weaving: every 2nd Wednesday (13th and 27th).

Community Tools Library: Wed and Sat, 10.30am – 2pm.

10-minute workshops: Try your hand at hemp string making, stick spinning or loom weaving.



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Silent cause of climate change

Everyone... well pretty much everyone apart from conspiracy theorists and diehard rednecks, realises we are now living in a world where CO₂ emissions are causing global climate change.

Severe local flooding events, droughts and bushfires are perceived as a direct outcome. Most put this down to the burning of fossil fuels.

Some also include methane emissions from livestock production – especially cattle – and other greenhouse chemicals used in industrial manufacturing.

However, all of these – CO₂, methane and greenhouse chemical emissions – are but a side-effect of the primary cause, which, sad to say, is rarely mentioned, or shouted, during student protests (and good on them for protesting), or broadcast by mass media, or marketed by left-leaning political parties!

Why? Because the primary cause is growth economics and its silent partner, human population increase! 385,000 babies are born each day (theworldcounts.com).

That's almost 14 Lismores added to the planet every 24 hours! Other sites take into account deaths and put the net human increase at 215,000-227,000, or 8 Lismores every 24 hours!

Many countries, including New Zealand, the UK, Japan, India, Turkey, Vietnam and others, have a Two Child Policy, where government cuts off welfare after the second child to discourage population growth. Australia does not!

By providing welfare to those who choose to have more than two children it is actually promoting the primary cause of climate change: unsustainable human population growth!

And until this is seen in the same light as burning fossil fuels and CO₂ emissions, as individuals we will continue to grow the climate problem, not solve it!

Azan Mann
Evans Head

Sufficiency needed

It's good to see a mood change in Australia. There's an odd feeling in the air of almost happiness.

'Mood' is a big factor in politics, especially at election time. It is mood that's changed our government. How people 'feel' changes history.

Most people are too busy muddling through their lives to give much thought to the political circus in Canberra.

Thinking deeply about politics is an irrelevancy for a person battling to raise children, paying off a mortgage, grimly holding

NGT welcomes letters and other contributions received by email or post prior to deadline. Letters longer than 300 words may be edited for length, and articles for accuracy. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Opinions expressed remain those of the author, and are not necessarily those of Nimbin Good Times.

onto a job that's usually demanding and often not secure.

People vote for political leaders they feel are honest, intelligent and who have their well-being at heart.

Watching Prime Minister Morrison spruiking, it's in the gut, not sure why, but something feels wrong about the man, yes, it's time to give the other bloke a go.

It's probable most people have noticed intuitively that Morrison's government was wandering aimlessly down a primrose path.

I wonder where the myth of the Coalition's financial proficiency came from. It's a myth wrapped up in a parcel of phrases which define life, the universe and everything as money. Money that reduces we little people to either a 'Budget Surplus' or worse still, to a 'Budget Deficit'.

Whereas, in fact, an economy is essentially about living with 'Sufficiency', which was forgotten by Morrison's mob, and which our new government appears to have remembered.

Sufficiency is found by safeguarding the necessities of life; life in all its forms. It is the nurturing of humans, creatures, forests, rivers, the oceans, the air we breathe.

It is a state of mind and deed that has been lacking in Australia for a long decade. A lack that toppled the Morrison Coalition.

The mood for change in Australia is manifest in our new government. Despite all hardships the nation has rediscovered a sense of decency.

It appears we've returned to the good old times of caring for country and its inhabitants. I do hope!

Michael Brooke
Kyogle

Pensioners' incomes

Once again I have to bore readers by complaining about our Members of Parliament ignoring our aged pensioners and benefiting the Treasury with the obnoxious Assets Test and reductions to the aged pension.

The deficit is being reduced using these cowardly cuts.

The NSW Government has not raised the Council Rates Rebate for decades. Council rates have risen twofold over



the past 10 years, but no relief for pensioners in the NSW Government rates rebate.

The Assets Test double-taxes aged pensioners. It is taxed once by a reduction to the pension and twice when the pensioner sells their asset to survive with capital gains tax.

I guess my letters help bring attention to these selfish B's in Parliament who give themselves pay rises by reducing their tax liability for the salary bracket they just happen to be in.

If you have grandies or parents who are suffering pension reductions, I ask you to complain on their behalf.

I have asked the Transport Workers Union baggage handlers to leave MP's baggage on the tarmac.

I ask that when you see an MP on the street, you poke

your tongue out at him/her and show the same disrespect they show to the aged.

Aged pensioners do not have a union to protest their justification for raising the barriers in the assets test.

Barnaby Joyce, Kevin Hogan, Janelle Saffin and most other MPs are ignoring this matter.

Claire De Ellae
Urbenville

Telco merry-go-round

Is anyone else on the Lillian Rock phone exchange having trouble like we are?

The phone, and hence the internet, goes off and on randomly. Or it used to, now it's just off all the time.

My patient partner spends hours chatting to women being paid a pittance no doubt, proving who we are over and over, as she is passed around the Philippines.

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Distribution Peter, Coralie, Brommers, Chibo, Sue, Bob, Rob and Lisa, Domenique, Rosie and Trevor

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And find us on Facebook

NGT is published by the Nimbin Aquarius Foundation, 81 Cullen Street, Nimbin.

NEXT DEADLINE: Friday 22th July

Email nimbin.goodtimes@gmail.com or put stuff in our pigeonhole at the Nimbin Community Centre.

The Nimbin GoodTimes acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional owners of the land and waters on which we work and live, and pay our respects to the Elders both past and present.

Notices

Flat for rent

One bedroom granny flat in Nimbin, \$250 per week. References requested. Phone Lea on 6689-0517.

Office/workshop space for rent

Nimbin Community Centre has three small rooms becoming available in the next two months for rent. Ideal for an office or small workshop space. If you are interested please contact the office for more details. Email: ncci@nimbincommunity.org.au or call the centre on 02 6689-0000.

Free notices

Keep it short and of interest to our readers, get it to us by deadline, and we'll run it for free.

I tell her she is too friendly, but she can't help it, she says.

We got a technician out, but the net was on when he arrived. "The line must have finally dried out," he cheerily said. It was off again soon after he was out of sight. I wondered if there was a booster in his car!

We also have no mobile reception, which is hard for them to understand in the Phillipines, so we have to go out to phone Telstra. Sometimes they insist it's now fixed, only to go home and it's not.

She organised another tech this week. We stayed home but he didn't even turn up.

So, do I cut down the trees around the house and tune into Elon, or is it better to be one of those retreats where they take your phone off you?

And is it true a flaming arrow took out the Mullum tower and they had to busload in police to protect the workers erecting the new one?

Are they picking on us because the hippies stopped the tower going up at Lillian Rock? Do we have to kidnap Rusty and drag him along to the Telstra office and force him to apologise?

All advice taken seriously.
Michael Balderstone
Nimbin

Remembering Bruce Kent

22/8/29 – 8/6/22

by Deborah and Mick Stacey

One of the greatest compassionate advocates for disarmament and humanity, Bruce Kent has died at the age of 92 at his home in London.

An ordained Catholic priest, he joined the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) in 1960, becoming General Secretary 1980-85, and Chair 1987-1990.

He was also Patron of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Vice President Pax Christi, Emeritus President of the Movement for the Abolition of War, and actively concerned for prisoners' welfare and prison reform.

In May this year, he took part in the annual ceremony in London to honour conscientious objectors throughout the world.

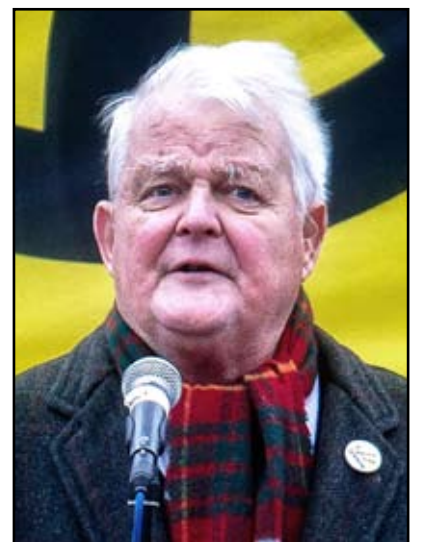
We were enormously privileged to work alongside Bruce Kent while

volunteering in the CND offices in the 1980s, and marched with him on a very cold and wet Easter weekend to RAF Molesworth, Cambridgeshire, one of the sites for the many cruise missiles to be placed around Britain and Europe.

We were fortunate enough to have Bruce as a guest speaker at the Richmond Air Base, Sydney in October 1987, while a large gathering assembled in Alice Springs, to highlight the use of Pine Gap in the USA's nuclear strategy.

Bruce would have been truly elated with the achievements that International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) has made in the last few years.

All Central American Nations now have ratified the UN's Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Guatemala being the latest.



There are now 62 countries worldwide signed up, and we wait in anticipation for our new PM to do likewise.

Nimbin pool – what a disgrace!

by Sue Edmonds

Once again, Lismore City councillors have shown they know nothing about the public facilities in Nimbin.

This year's annual budget does not include funding for the desperately needed toilet block for Peace Park.

This park has the children's playground, the skate park, the BBQ area, the outdoor exercise equipment and the swimming pool.

One new councillor, with no prior knowledge of the years of lobbying for a toilet block, described the toilet block as a "whim". It's hardly a whim when 10 people are picnicking at the park BBQ area and one person needs to go to the toilet.

The nearest toilet is up the hill, across a busy road with no pedestrian crossing, and up another hill – a 10-minute walk, depending on age and mobility. This councillor should do their research before making ignorant comments.

There were some 20 letters of support



for this funding round for toilets in Peace Park from many individuals, as well as the CWA, Neighbourhood Centre, and Friends of Nimbin Pool.

There are very few parks in NSW where there is no toilet. Nimbin is a rare example.

Part of Council's charter is to provide necessary services to the community, funded by our rates. What is the rationale of voting against a necessary

facility on one hand, then direct funds to the town to support the tourist industry?

The recent increase in Nimbin's population has resulted in more rates being paid to LCC, and an increasing demand for, and use of public facilities, which are inadequate, and in Peace Park non-existent.

It's a shame that LCC continues to be ignorant of real Nimbin needs.

Michael Pettersson MP is coming to MardiGrass

by Michael Balderstone

We are thrilled Michael Pettersson is coming to Nimbin for the big 30th MardiGrass weekend, now on September 16, 17, 18.

He is one of Australia's youngest politicians and the fellow responsible for people in the ACT being able to grow two plants and legally carry 50 grams with them. He did try for four plants but they cut his number in half.

Michael was elected to the ACT Parliament in 2016 when he was 25 after famously using Twitter to campaign and connect with the younger generations. He grew up in Canberra and did Arts at ANU where he got involved with student politics.

After graduating, he worked as a trade unionist for the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union. Wikipedia says his interests are biking, yoga and the TV show *Survivor*. And now he has introduced a bill in Canberra that would remove criminal sanctions for the personal possession and use of all illicit substances.

I dream this could be the beginning of the end for the drug war in Australia.

He agrees it should be about treating drug use as a health issue and I wonder how many people actually truly disagree with that? Why else do people use drugs other than trying to feel good? Reducing one's pain, mental or physical, somehow has become a war over which drugs we are allowed to use.

And so we have more people in jail than ever before, thousands of arrests every week filling our courts, and gang violence escalating endlessly, still.

"Thou shalt not lead us into

temptation," says our ritual prayer uttered across the country daily, but who thinks about what it means? The drug war is a war against the poor. It's a class war. Our courts and jails are full of people who take risks to get or supply pain relief.

Cannabis, legal or illegal, costs more than ten dollars a gram and this is for a plant that grows like a weed. A plant that anybody could grow in their backyard or in a pot on a balcony, or under a light inside! Using it for pain relief many people need over an ounce a week – and there goes the rent money. There are many people homeless who would rather have their medicine.

Prohibition and the drug war has now evolved into a business model employing thousands of people from lawyers and court workers to privatised jail wardens, and the contractors who do the laundry and cook the meals for inmates.

Half of all police work or perhaps more is drug related. Jobs are sacred as we know and any idea of change in that area is terrifying it seems. Just ask the forestry workers!

There are massive employment opportunities in weed-world, as America has proven. But we have ignored that in Oz, and follow the corporate cannabis model licencing only big wealthy companies to be the growers in massive greenhouses.

In America small licences to supply legal weed have seen massive employment. 100,000 jobs in Colorado alone, which has Sydney's population. And many of these jobs are for people who have been growing pot for decades and learnt genuine skills that can be put to good use.

But no, here we hire 'experts' with no experience, businessmen in suits. Most people in Australia's corporate cannabis

industry have no growing experience and don't use cannabis. It's just a money-making opportunity. Even Gina Reinhardt is in on it now.

Michael Pettersson was inspired early in his life by LEAP – Law Enforcement Against Prohibition – a largely American organisation of ex-police and court workers. There are thousands of members in America and they had a big influence in changing the cannabis laws over there. It never took off in Australia and I wonder why?

California legalised weed in 1996, and now 33 states have changed their cannabis laws. Oregon decriminalised personal possession of all drugs in February this year and several other states have it on the drawing board. Portugal did it in 2001.

No one disagrees that the drug war has exacerbated drug use and the associated harms while creating massive criminal networks, but the prohibition propaganda has gone in deep in Australia it seems.

John Howard telling parents their kids might go crazy if they smoke weed had an enormous influence. He was led astray by statistics from mental health hospital records that showed many people admitted had cannabis in their blood. No one told him weed stays in your blood for months, not days like other drugs. Your body hangs on to the cannabinoids! The what?!

I phoned a big Victorian hospital once after it stated 10% of its beds were taken up by cannabis patients. Statistics from admitted patients' blood tests!

The 30th MardiGrass program on in mid-September just gets better and better, check it out on: nimbinmardigrass.com and support the cause by buying a ticket: \$50 for an all weekend pass, or \$150 with three nights camping.

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Where the wild clays are

by Anne Cook

French winegrowers use the term "terroir" (from terre, "land") to describe the environmental factors that affect a wine's individual character, traits and the wine's unique quality.

Nimbin Artists Gallery's artist of the month for July, Ali Walker applies the same principle to her ceramics practice. In her desire to create imaginative pottery that embodies the raw and earthy origins of the elements that are used, Ali sources wild clay from local valleys and rivers.

These wild clays are then processed in an environmentally sensitive manner by hand which in turn results in the creation of works that are both unique and that reflect the qualities of the beautiful Northern Rivers region's "terroir."

This contemplative and thoughtful process gives Ali a very strong connection to the natural world and the beauty that it embodies.

In addition to being the creator of inspirational ceramics, Ali also works in the areas of watercolour, acrylics and encaustic wax. Ali finds that these mediums allow her to explore a more illustrative and abstract approach to her creative skills and enable her to express her emotions and lived experiences through

'Jupiter Urn', wild clay
'Ancient Flow', watercolour and ink

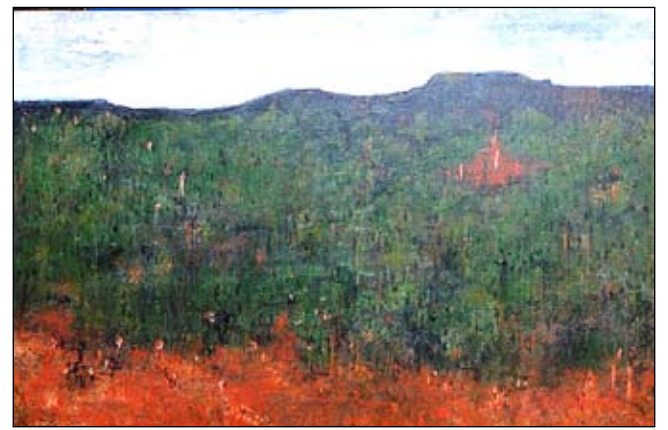
these diversified artforms.

Informed by literature, poetry and dreams, these lyrical works are both intellectually and visually stimulating for the viewer and they allow you to view the world in a different way.

Living in Blue Knob among the majestic mountains with meandering creeks, the spectacular rainforests and exploring the nearby sandy beaches with their wild ocean waves are the ineffable and profound sources of awe that have influenced Ali's creativity.

If you would like to experience these beautiful works, come and view them at the Nimbin Artists Gallery during the month of July. We are open 7 days a week from 10am to 4pm.

Also don't forget that the Nimbin Art Fair will be commencing Saturday 2nd July through to Sunday 17th July in the School of Arts Hall.



'Where the Wild Clays Are', acrylic on canvas



'Moon & Stars Pod', wild clay



'Mini Pod', ceramics



From newspaper to paintbrush with TAFE NSW

Northern Rivers local Nerida Woolley (pictured) has credited TAFE NSW with helping her make the switch from newspaper journalist to popular landscape artist.

According to the Australian Government's Job Outlook, the number of Visual Arts and Crafts Professionals in Australia has grown strongly over the past five years and is expected to grow to 15,600 by 2025.

Nerida worked as a rural newspaper journalist and had always wanted to study art in her younger years but went down a more 'sensible' career route.

"When my youngest child started school I made the decision to finally follow my long held passion for painting," Nerida said.

"After a lot of research, I decided Lismore TAFE offered the best fit with a well-rounded course covering topics like art history and the business of art as well as practical lessons in print making, drawing, ceramics, sculpture and painting."

Nerida enrolled in the Diploma of Visual Arts at



TAFE Lismore and is now living her dream as a full-time mother and painter. Her paintings reflect her love of and affinity with the land and this year alone has seen her exhibit in places including Inverell, Toowoomba, Walcha, Sydney and Dubbo, as well as fulfil a hectic commission schedule.

"While I was studying at TAFE, I had three young and super-active primary age children as well as three high school aged step-children.

"Life at home was extremely busy, so my main personal obstacle in completing the course was finding time to fit it in with all the outside homework.

"I was so determined to complete the course I made the time and loved every minute of it. It was never work to me. Even to this day I continue to spend every night reading or researching art in books, online or attending workshops.

The more I learn, the more

I realise I have to learn."

When devastating floods hit the Northern Rivers this year, Nerida joined a collective of artists who banded together to donate artwork to #ArtForFloods and raise money for flood victims.

TAFE NSW visual arts teacher Steven Giese said Nerida's pivot from journalist to painter was such a success due to the clear passion and drive she has invested into her studies.

"It's very rewarding to see that Nerida has forged such a successful art practice using the skills she has acquired at Lismore TAFE. Nerida is part of a thriving arts community in the Northern Rivers and it's wonderful to see her giving back to the community," Mr Giese said.

Nerida said that she loved every minute of studying at TAFE NSW, and the flexibility of the course meant that she was able to successfully navigate her home life with her studies.

For more information about visual arts courses available at TAFE NSW, visit: www.tafensw.edu.au or phone 13-16-01.

Fabulous Fibre at BK Hall

The first fibre exhibition held at Blue Knob Hall Gallery in 2005 was called "Feeling for Fibre" where 25 weavers, quilters, felt-makers and sculptors showcased the innovative, creative and functional forms that felt making and fibre were becoming.

It has become an annual event that continues to express the vitality of fibre in all its forms.

Felt making was transformed by the experimentation of two local women, Polly Stirling and Sachiko Kotaka who developed what is now known as Nuno Felt.

They began teaching the process and started a felting revolution that became a worldwide phenomenon.

The exhibition has continued to change over the years as artists use new and old forms of transforming fibre (natural man-made or

recycled) into the everyday items that we use, wear or admire.

The artists and artisans who are exhibiting at the Gallery have come up with the whimsical – Jennifer Edwards 'No Internet', an installation using her Tribal Barbie couple relaxing in their bamboo and palm woven hut; the practical – Kitty van Vuuren's knitted, crocheted and woven work made entirely from recycled yarns; and the mastery with Sachiko Kotaka's exquisite Nuno felted piece titled 'Walk Softly Through the Rice Fields'.

Anything goes when it comes to fibre, and this annual exhibition at Blue Knob Hall Gallery is dedicated to this wonderful multi-faceted medium.

The exhibition opened on Sunday 26th June and will run until Saturday 13th August.



'Walk Softly Through the Rice Fields' by Sachiko Kotaka

For more information regarding exhibitions or Blue Knob Café, please contact: bkhgallery@harbourisp.net.au or: bkgcafe@gmail.com or phone 02 6689-7449.



Crochet and woven hanging by Lorraine Lintern



Poncho, skirt and shawl by K.T.

Abstractions, poetry and more in Kyogle

by Ruth Tsitimbinis

'Abstraction and Other' is the exhibition for July at the Roxy Gallery. The Woodenbong Arts Group, along with the Bonalbo Artists Alliance are bringing together a selection of works from their members that focus on abstraction.

A host of West-of-the-Range artists have come together to present an exhibition that focuses on the concept of abstraction, freeing themselves from representational to presenting artworks open to the viewer's interpretation.

'Abstraction and Other' will be on exhibition until 31st July, and will kick-start with a number of events to open the exhibition.

On Saturday 9th July, the Woodenbong Poets Breakfast will take place in the Roxy Gallery from 10am to noon.



'Soul' by Lucy Deslandes

Highlighting the diversity of talents living in the West-of-the-Range areas of the Kyogle region, this event will bring to the Roxy Gallery a taste of the poets that reside in the bush. This is a free event and members of the public are welcome to contribute with

their poetry readings.

The official opening of 'Abstraction and Others' will also take place on Saturday 9th July from 1pm to 3pm. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet the artists involved in this exhibition while contemplating the meaning of abstraction.

On Saturday 23rd July at 1pm as part of this exhibition, performance artist, Jayne Miller will be launching her new book *The Writings*, with a book signing along with an artist's talk on her multidisciplinary arts practice as a performer, filmmaker, poet and musician.

Continuing in the support of the Kyogle Writers Festival, on Sunday 10th July from 2pm the Roxy Gallery will be hosting the debut screening of *Crossing* – a poetic encounter between local creatives and our bridges. This is a free event and a Q&A will follow the film screening.

The woman and the wolf and Serpentine markets

by Corinne Batt-Rawden

In the last issue of the *Nimbin GoodTimes* 'Woman and Wolf' by Rebecca Bryant was featured and flood survivor Susan McLennan read the article.

She emailed the Serpentine Gallery and wrote: "My white wolf and I were rescued from 4.5m flooding in North Lismore. She really kept me going, I would like to buy that painting."

Two amazing women both with harrowing stories. Artist Rebecca Bryant decided to gift her artwork to fellow survivor Susan and her faithful dog Freyja (pictured).

Freyja woke Susan up at 3am that night warning her that the waters were coming. Susan recalls that Freyja was doing this Lassie thing trying to get Susan to follow her. She turned on lights and saw water coming in over the first step and rising fast.

Susan was unable to get support from SES and the



000 recommended she climb on the roof. After a frightful time and calling for help in the dark and storming rain until her voice was hoarse, they were eventually rescued by locals in a tinny around 10am that morning.

Hearing of Susan's plight, local artist Rebecca Bryant decided to gift her painting to Susan. Rebecca shares her story of that night.

"During the flood, we had five families swim or boat to our house being the highest house in the street. No one believed the water would come in. At one stage, we had



roughly 25 adults and kids and well as three dogs and two pet rats, a rabbit named Slippers, a Macaw and two cats all seeking shelter in our home.

"It was a very terrifying day and we all had to be evacuated to the Lismore South Public School library, where I work as a teacher's aide, then evacuated again across the bridges to safety. Personally, as a family we were able to save a lot more than most and have been truly blessed with kindness and generosity.

"I haven't felt able to create

any art. Aside from not having my materials, I have just felt depleted of creative energy. However, learning that my painting is to go to someone who also went through the floods has given me a real boost and I may find myself painting again soon.

"Thank you so much Serpentine. I hope the lady loves her painting."

Serpentine Gallery has a stall at each Lismore Car boot market and the monthly Channon Markets in Lismore. Come on down and say hello.

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A moment
by S Sorrensen

Riding a motorbike is scary. I mean, two wheels is less wheels than required for form stability. So, when you approach a corner on a road snaking through the forest, you have to lean. It's just physics: gravity versus centrifugal force.

Leaning gets you around the corner. If you don't lean, you go straight ahead. In my case, I would go straight ahead into Mangrove Creek. That would be bad.

Mangrove Creek itself isn't bad. The water is clear (yes, North Coasters, creeks can run clear) as it pokes its way to the pretty village of Spencer where the creek joins the Hawkesbury River. Yep, a beautiful creek bathed in sunset gold, but my bike and I do not want to bathe right now. We're more into staying on the road.

Motorcycling can be scary. But life is scary,

right? It's uncertain, despite our efforts to predict and control it. Climate change is here, so here come the floods, droughts and mayhem. That's scary. So, I didn't drive my Subaru down from the North Coast; I took a fuel-efficient train – which turned out to be an inefficient bus. Weird world.

I don't want to live in fear. That's what old people do. So when asked, "You wanna come for a ride?" I said, "Cool." But a tremor of anxiety tickled my ageing spine. It's been a while...

I drop down to third gear. The bike snarls and prepares to pitch into the right-hander.

I have had a love affair with motorbikes since I was 17. Freshly licensed, I played weave and speed with my mates in Brisbane traffic on a Suzuki 500. A bit older, I cruised the Sunshine Coast on a Triumph 650, my first great love behind me, holding me tight, certain our love was eternal.



Later, when I had moved to the hills near Nimbin (without her), I flirted with the potholes on a BMW 650, my young son holding on and shouting 'Do it again!' when my flirtations ended with a suspension-wrecking bounce that he very much enjoyed. That was a long time ago.

I had no fear then. I haven't ridden a big bike since. Until now... I'm astride a Royal Enfield 500 Bullet. It's a lovely bike. Traditional English design. It has a single cylinder punching up through the seat. I like that. I can't see all the way around the corner. There

are roadside trees. Hmm. I don't like that. We all want to know what's around the corner, but the future is increasingly unpredictable. And what predictions there are, are bleak. The old world lurches to chaos: regional train timetables are fantasy; flood zonings a

nostalgia; a house for your son a dream. But I have to assume the road around the corner is clear. What else can you do? Leaning the bike over hard, it dips westwards. All of a sudden, sunlight strobes through the trees. It's impossible to see. A blinding disco; the beat is four-stroke and the dance floor bitumen. Between flashes, I see blue blobs where I should be seeing road. I'm losing orientation. I touch the brakes – which snaps the bike upright – and it heads towards the creek. Not good. I release the brakes and lean the bike back into the blinking blaze. Riding a motorcycle is scary. I wish I was in my Subaru. Or in bed. I wish the world was nicer: no extreme weather events, overpriced houses, buses pretending to be trains – or blind corners. But it ain't. Life is scary. Hold on. Lean into it

An opportunity we must take

This year's catastrophic flooding and destruction has provided us with a significant opportunity for change; an opportunity we must take. It has wiped clean the slate of all our hoardings, indeed it has wiped away the slate itself along with our walls and ceilings. We could of course rush back in – slap up some plasterboard, staple down some lino and replicate what we had – just in time for us to have to gut it all and throw it into the street again. And many businesses have done exactly that.

Alternately we could use this period to transform our buildings and our society so we're better placed for what will be increasingly faster and larger inundations. At my place, my builder and I have taken this opportunity to tie the upper plate of the building together with the lower plate with threaded rod, metal tape the roof to the top plate and clamp the building down to the slab. This will bring it into line with modern requirements and countering the buoyancy of the timbers – buoyancy that destroyed dozens of buildings in March. The presence of walls and ceilings would've made that retrofit impossible. As a community we should start thinking ahead too.



Revenge of the Loon
by Laurie Axtens

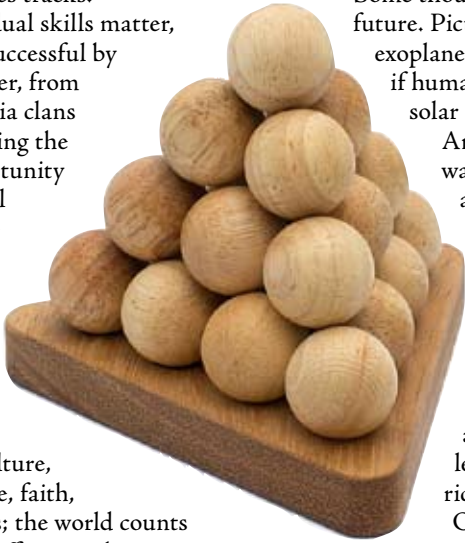
Switzerland has extremely innovative laws and practices around squatting, and as much of Lismore's CBD will never be filled with small businesses ever again, we need to adopt their approach or rats and roaches will run these buildings instead. We could also use the premises just as seating and keep the services and products in vans on the street for rapid redeployment. The big gig however is not the retreat of North and South Lismore – that's been underway for decades – it's the retirement and retreat of central Lismore, for the CBD is under the exact same threat as its previously-mentioned suburbs.

The human mind, and consumer choice

Shapeshifting
by Anand Gandharva

The human mind, and consumer choice, is often referred to as a black box in market research, psychology, planning, economics, etc. Regardless of which discipline, no-one knows exactly how it works. To grasp behaviour, one measures what's put in, and what comes out. Society predicts these changing needs, like traffic and parking, water use and charges, security and laws, environment and economy, employment and education, even currency, land, food, technology. Governments, enterprises, institutions, community organisations, small business, councils, work overtime keeping up, and regulate fair discussions. Rules on tax, building, car manufacturing, OH&S, etc. are often more complicated than any non-specialist understands. Enterprises comply with ever more regulations. Prices rise accordingly. It's unsustainable. And that's for organisations. Individuals have to decide whether it is worth it to join the rat race, or sleep under a bridge. There is a simple way around this: switch the black box. As long as people consume like opportunist apex predators, their black boxes process data that way, but if they see the world as meritocratic herbivores, their black box,

or brain, changes tracks. While individual skills matter, humans were successful by working together, from family groups via clans to tribes, climbing the ladder of opportunity through natural selection of 'the fittest'. But there are over eight billion people now in a divided Global Village. Skin colour, culture, family, language, faith, looks, priorities; the world counts well over 500 different tribes in some 200 nations, overharvesting bounties of nature, pressurising others, running out of land, fouling the nest. It can't go on. All people are DNA relatives. It's time to bury the hatchet, switch from small group predators to large group herbivore meritocrats. It's not difficult. We are sharing one Earth. Protein is protein, whether it comes from a mammal or a plant. There are plant-based civilisations. Herbivores, like elephants and oxen, can be strong and clever. The idea that it is good to be apex predators may get opportunist leaders, harsh economics, wars, and deliver snarly individuals arguing over territory, but undermines community, society and fills gaols. Good for a few of today's businesses, but bad for mankind.



Some thought experiments on the future. Picture omnivores eating exoplanets bare and consider if humanity should leave the solar system. Are humans in a forever war with other tribes and enslaving species? Why? Does genetics place people as relations of mammals? Then decide if cow, pig or poultry businesses are the future? Why not avocados, macadamias, lentils, potatoes, wheat, rice, etc? One of the strongest growing groups in society today are herbivores.

Future markets

Humans have to eat. Whether that involves 'domesticated' livestock, fish farms, sliced pig, chicken wings, dahl or potato soup is a matter of taste. Taste is taught in childhood, and it would be wrong, and impossibly hard, to force people to comply right now. After all, Aquarius affirms foremost to enjoy life. But environments and many spirits, are being polluted. It is not just that, it is increasingly hard to keep dissenters at bay. Robot cops, computer surveillance, war in the streets, pandemics, more gaols, dictatorships? It is time to switch the black box: Ahimsa laws.

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The largest industrial reform of our generation is coming

by Rosalie Shearer,
Rainbow Power Co.

Rainbow Power Comany (RPC) is a medium sized company employing 45 staff located in Nimbin, RPC specializes in designing and supplying renewable energy technologies to customers across Australia and the Pacific. We have been in business for over 35 years and during this period have seen dramatic change in the renewable energy industry.

Over the past three years, unprecedented bushfires and floods have directly affected the Northern Rivers community. Prior to the recent election ABC *Vote Compass* had recorded 30% of voters stating that action on climate change was their number one concern. Although the widespread acceptance of the risks of climate change has seen all credible political parties adopt 'Net Zero by 2050' policies, the pathway to achieving this remains at best vague.

Over the past 20 years we have seen the renewable energy industry transform from a small alternative sector into the major growth sector in the energy industry. We have seen the cost of renewable energy plummet to become the cheapest form of new build energy production on the planet. This is one of the few good news stories for government to take practical action on climate change.

The political conversation has now rightly moved from questions relating to subsidizing limited government programs, to economy wide reforms. RPC sees political credibility now relies on more than general statements of support and long-term targets. A practical plan for how our politicians and the elected government will lead the largest industrial reform of our generation is

now overdue.

RPC sought consultation to hear from our local candidates as to their vision on the transformation of the energy sector - what challenges they see ahead and what role they see Federal government will play in this transition.

Below is a list of issues RPC has identified as roadblocks to the growth of our sector and we welcome and encourage comments and suggestions from the public as well as the official replies from the politicians, which we will be publishing in a later article.

Climate change policies

- "Stop the fighting" multi-party support for climate change policy;
- Carbon emissions targets leading to net zero by 2050;
- 2030 and 2040 target allowing industry to plan with certainty;
- Practical penalties for not achieving targets providing a clear signal for action.

Electricity Network

- Federal government to take an active role in network planning for the transition to a net zero grid;
- Support of an external federal body looking at driving investment into the network, based on the location of future renewable energy resources;
- Support for mainstreaming the renewable industry; review and removal of all counter-policies that work against renewable energy projects;
- Allowing renewable energy projects to compete on an even playing field, including the removal of hidden subsidies for fossil fuel projects;
- Accurate costing of environmental damage in all energy projects including environmental, waste and clean-up costs;



- Research into and recognition of the financial benefit new technologies provide the electricity network, and leading energy market reforms to value these contributions;
- Supporting microgrid demonstration projects that help build resilience in the network and protect against extreme climate events;
- No subsidies for ageing fossil fuel infrastructure. Clear planning and stable policies allowing clear market signals for new infrastructure to be built.

Electric Vehicles (EV's):

- Planning for EV standards;
- Planning for network upgrades to support EV charging requirements;
- Establishing standards for vehicle to grid technologies;

- EV chargers mandated in new homes in Australia.

Training

- Supporting a "just transition" for workers in carbon intensive industries;
- Provide support for renewable companies to help staff improve skills and training as a strategic industry;
- Incentivise uptake of electrical apprenticeships with a focus on renewable skills and accreditation;
- Training of solar accredited installers to be a priority training area; and
- Break the Clean Energy Council's monopoly on accreditation, training and qualifications for solar. This should be the same as all other electrical qualifications and be

administered by Fair-Trading. Multiple providers should be able to provide accreditation.

Rainbow Power Company Ltd is an unlisted public company, incorporated in 1987 to design, manufacture, sell and install renewable energy equipment based on solar, wind and hydro energy sources.

We are extremely proud to have been a major protagonist for the increased use of renewable energy both in Australia and in overseas countries.

With an unparalleled commitment to education, demonstration and innovation, our primary objective since the start has been to turn the tide away from environmental destruction and towards environmental harmony.

A fishy capture reveals a prized tropical species moving south

A fishing expedition on the NSW Mid North Coast has hooked an unexpected catch for a Southern Cross University marine researcher.

When brothers Benjamin and Daniel Mos went fishing over summer, the pair did not anticipate their catch to be anything other than a photo opportunity or dinner.

Instead the fish they captured and released, commonly called the Barred Javelin, is rare to find in New South Wales waters.

"While this species is likely well-known to fishers in Queensland, it is not something we typically find here. We had to look through a few fish books and websites to identify our specimens," said Dr Benjamin Mos, a marine biologist based at Southern Cross University's National Marine Science Centre.

A scientific paper, outlining the pair's discovery, is now published in *Journal of Fish Biology*.

The captures in late 2021 and early 2022 are the southern-most records for the barred javelin reported to date. And there may be more around the area.



Barred Javelin have a golden-green back, silvery belly with traces of brown vertical bars. The juvenile has a brilliant silvery green back with golden silver sides and a silvery white belly, with 12 or more faint vertical bars that comprise small dark brown spots or irregular blotches. Courtesy Westag

"At the end of May 2022, we saw posts on social media about a barred javelin caught from Deep Creek, which is just north of the Nambucca River where we found our specimens," Dr Mos said.

The species has been previously sighted in the Richmond River and Clarence River systems on the NSW North Coast, which are around 200 kilometres north of the Nambucca River where the latest specimens were discovered.

It is not known if the arrival of the Barred Javelin this far

south into NSW is due to changing ocean conditions.

"It is possible the sightings this far south are a one-off event. However, our sightings fit with a broader pattern occurring in the waters off south-eastern Australia which points towards a role of climate change," said Dr Mos. "In our region, dozens of tropical species are moving southwards where oceans and estuaries are also warming faster than the global average."

According to *Atlas of Living Australia* records, the Barred Javelin has not been collected

in NSW in more than 50 years.

The Barred Javelin's southern-most stronghold is Queensland's Moreton Bay, off Brisbane, where the species supports economically important recreational and commercial fisheries.

The species is a popular sport fish and reportedly good eating. The Barred Javelin grows to around 80cm in length and is found in estuaries and offshore to around 75 metres deep.

Dr Mos said the newcomer was not of particular environmental concern at present. The barred javelin's relative rarity in NSW and generalist diet means it is unlikely to out-compete local species.

In the Mediterranean, tropical fishes moving into sub-tropical or temperate areas pose threats to biodiversity, public health, and fisheries. Two examples include herbivorous rabbitfishes chomping away at kelp forests, and poisonous silver-cheeked toadfish fouling fishers' nets and stealing their catch.

In contrast, the Barred Javelin may be welcomed by NSW recreational and

commercial fishers.

"It is important that we understand where this species is showing up, and in what numbers," Dr Mos said.

If greater numbers make their way to NSW over coming decades the Barred Javelin may become a more common catch. It might then be necessary to look at whether specific size or catch limits are needed to ensure more fishers have the opportunity to catch this fish.

Because the Barred Javelin has been rarely captured in northern NSW, there are at

present no specific catch or size limits for this species in NSW.

A maximum daily bag limit of 20 applies to all fish in NSW that do not have specific bag and size limits. A 40 cm minimum length and bag limit of 10 applies in Queensland waters.

Fishers, divers, and the general public can help scientists track the movement of fish and other marine organisms to new locations by reporting unusual sightings to RedMap Australia at: www.redmap.org.au

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Nimbin Garden Club notes



by Kerry Hagan

After having to cancel our last two garden club meetings, the weather gods really smiled upon us this month, with a perfect winter afternoon at Pauline and Sue's.

Pauline and Sue have lived on

Jarlanbah for the best part of 30 years, but moved to their present location 15 years ago.

At that time, the garden was scrappy and neglected. They set about clearing and then planting food trees.

The result today is a gorgeous orchard, with fruit trees groaning

under the weight of produce and a very productive vege garden.

In the common land adjoining their property, cabinet timbers have been planted under a canopy of ancient eucalypts.

The most notable of these are a stunning Queensland maple, celery pines, red and white cedars and

white beech.

All of this is set against a glorious backdrop of Blue Knob and Mt Neville.

It was a truly wonderful afternoon, with many of us taking home oranges, mandarins and tangelos, all fat and juicy.

Thank you Pauline and Sue.

Our next meeting is at Nana and Hendrik's place on Saturday 16th July, 2-4 pm at 694 Stony Chute Rd, Stony Chute.

Car pooling is essential for this one, as parking is extremely limited.

Please bring a cup, a chair and a plate to share. Guests are welcome. Look forward to seeing you there.



Bushwalkers on the move

by Peter Moyle

The weather has come around and now we are having gorgeous clear days and we have been out and about.

Unfortunately, our walk schedule is still all over the place as we struggle to get access to our regular and planned walks. We had planned to tackle Christies Creek in the Moobal National Park, a beautiful off-track walk along the creek, but the rains have caused serious land slips and trees down necessitating National Parks to close the area for 12 months.

This is not an isolated closure as a lot of our local National Parks have serious damage to access and infrastructure.

A bit of restructuring our schedule has seen us still maintain our dates but locations have changed at short notice. The walk leader always has the latest information, so if interested give them a ring to check for updates and to register.

Walks program

Sunday 10th July

Rocky Creek Dam – the full circuit

Leader: Peter Moyle 0412-656-498

Meet: at Rocky Creek Dam Picnic Area at 9am. We will follow the tracks we did at the AGM before continuing into 'The Big Scrub' in the Nightcap

National Park. On tracks, but as usual some can be uneven and slippery. Good walking shoes/boots needed as well as water and lunch. A nice after-walk get-together at the picnic area.

Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th July

Black Rocks Campground, Bundjalung National Park

Leader: Megan Myers 0415-063-302
Grade 2-3: Another of our great camp weekends. Camp for a night or two and day walkers are welcome on both the Saturday and Sunday. Visitors welcome: \$10 to help cover insurance. Day walks will start at 9am. This is a lovely coastal camp area under trees just south of Evans Head. Jerusalem Creek runs from here to the ocean so some will canoe and kayak while there is a nice walk besides the creek and ocean walks as well. We have booked sites 1, 2 and 5 so plenty of room to share, ring Megan if you want a spot or book your own. We have sites booked from Thursday to Monday. National Park vehicle pass required \$8 a day or buy an annual one. Camping \$12 per person per night.

Sunday 7th August

38/38 and the Hidden Valley – Whian Whian State Conservation Area

Leader: Peter Moyle 0412-656-498

Meet: 9am Rummery Park camp area near Minyon Falls in the Whian Whian SCA. We were out this way earlier in the year and have decided to return to these beautiful valleys. There will be some scrambling over rocks and some steep climbs up and down, suitable for experienced walkers only. If in doubt ring Peter for advice. Bring: water, lunch, and hat. Good walking footwear essential.

Plant of the month



Kangaroo apple *Solanum aviculare*

by Richard Burer

Kangaroo apple is a widespread small native shrub often found on rainforest margins.

After a rainy season this year, its having a good season in regenerating forest as it acts as a pioneer species and is very useful for "quick cover".

It likes disturbed areas and its regeneration is common after removal of Lantana and it can come up after slashing the edges of forest.

It's really worth getting to know your native Solanums as they can often go unnoticed and can be mistaken as weeds as they may regenerate with weed species including

wild tobacco and hence be included in careless removal.

This species grows fast with attractive distinct leaves which resemble the hind feet of kangaroos, and orange-red fruit that contains solasodine a steroid drug used in the manufacture of oral contraceptives, which is cultivated on a large scale together with related species in other countries.

Common locally, kangaroo apple is often found adjacent to and within Nightcap NP including Mt Nardi.

Richard Burer is a Nimbin-based local natural area restoration contractor and consultant:
richard.burer@gmail.com

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Practical exercises for connection

by Suzy Maloney

I recently had a powerful result with a client from doing connection exercises. He told me he had been spending 90 minutes treating greasy heel on his horse, and he was doing it daily. The horse was sore, and constant rain meant they were not getting better.

I was impressed by his dedication but felt this was not sustainable. I asked if I could work with his horse for a while and proceeded to do some connection exercises.

Later, after I left, he messaged me saying he had been able to treat his horse in 20 minutes. The following day he did the connection exercises I'd showed him and completed the task in 10 minutes. This had gone from 90 minutes to 10 minutes! Even I was amazed at such a huge response.

He said he now realised he needed to connect with his horse before everything. I was over the moon at his understanding of how important connection is. The following is a brief intro to some of my exercises.

Follow the leader – I do this whenever I meet a new horse or if there have been issues. It establishes me in the role of herd leader, a trusted person who will look after them. With a halter and lead I walk off in front of the horse and expect them to follow me. If they do not, they will bump into the end of the rope.

Usually this lets them know they need to follow me. If they do not, I walk off sideways a bit and squeeze on the rope. The moment the horse follows I make sure there is slack in the rope again.



Every time they stop, they feel the rope, every time they follow, they feel nothing. Every now and then I stop and go or do gentle turns. Gentle turns make it easier for your horse to follow.

Yields – These help the horse release their entire body. I ask them to yield the head towards me and away, both sides, the hindquarters, and shoulders both sides, forward and backwards and dropping the head. This is a lot of yields, and it may take a few sessions before your horse is comfortable with all of them.

Circles – I do this on a 12 foot lead, this also establishes me as herd leader and introduces the horse to watching for my body and to voice cues. I ask them to move around me by twirling the end of the rope and clicking. When they move forward, I remove all pressure. I do this both sides and only in walk and trot as it's too small a circle for canter.

Following – Another following exercise to reinforce and check our connection. This time I do not want to

put any pressure on the rope, I step out and use my body language to invite the horse to follow me. By this stage they should be tuned in to me and will follow me everywhere with zero pressure.

Touching all over – By now I am hoping the horse sees me as a trusted leader. This exercise tests this and softens the horse's body, helping it to relax even more. In halt I throw the lead over the horse's neck, or ground tie, and walk around touching every part of the horse's body.

This includes inside nostrils, the mouth, nipples, sheath, under the dock, everywhere. If the horse moves at any point, I hold my hand on and wait until they still, remove my hand, then repeat until they do not move.

Presence – This is something that is within all the other exercises, it is not a separate exercise. By presence I mean being totally and completely with the horse. Being aware of every tiny little signal they give, having nothing in the mind, being present and open to the communication that is flowing constantly backwards and forwards.

With these tools, connection with your horse should grow into a beautiful relationship where they trust you and feel safe. When this happens, issues may change or disappear, without ever working directly on them. Everything, absolutely everything, is easier with horses if you connect with them first.

Email: suzy@happyhorsesbitless.com

Web: www.happyhorsesbitless.com

Facebook: Happy Horses Bitless Bridles

Phone 0401-249-263

The uniqueness of personality

by Les Rees

Looking back to the animals that have been part of my life, I can say is that they have all been special characters, each one having a unique personality that made them interesting and endearing to all who encountered them.

An old friend was remarking on this recently, which got me thinking about the reasons for it. The answer is that they were all treated as valued members of our extended family. They've all been given plenty of love and a lot of attention to their well-being, so it's not surprising that they've been able to develop special personalities.

There are a few who consider this as spoiling them, but generally by those who lack compassion and empathy, those who think that animals can be there when they want them to be but expect them to distance themselves when they are not wanted. I can always tell if an animal is not respected, and it eats away at the very essence of my being.

Our horses generally get along because each one plays a unique role in the herd dynamics. Their individual strengths serve to keep balance and maintain the herd's integrity.

Gypsy, our oldest member



of the family, seems to be the matriarch who quietly maintains order and has opinions on everything. She likes to supervise at meal times when I am making up the feeds.

She watches me closely, doing a time and motion study, occasionally nudging the wheelbarrow to let me know that she is counting the time it takes for the food to arrive. She has even worked out how to open the roller door. If I'm not quick enough to stop her, she slides her neck under it and pushes it up so that she can have a better view. This is her general 'self-appointed' position in life!

The others also have specific roles they like to play within the herd which

is fascinating to watch and the more I study them, I realise that it gives them the confidence to further develop the uniqueness of their personalities.

The importance of calm energy around animals is the key to maintaining balance within the herd. Calm energy resonates outwards, influencing emotions and enriching shared positive experiences that encourage relaxation.

A lot of people have a problem with this because they are aware that horses are much bigger and faster than themselves but if you think that way, the horses will pick up on the fear and associated defence mechanisms that accompany this kind of energy.

This is because horses are masters at reading energy and can spot it from meters away. Given that they are flight animals, this is not surprising. I believe that the secret is never to allow myself to get cross. I simply just take a deep breath, increase my energy level and look directly at them. This seems to have the desired effect.

Our horse Red was two years old when he joined our family; he was absolutely full of himself managing to irritate all the other herd members. If he had been sold to the wrong person, it's possible that he would have been beaten into submission.

Unfortunately, there are many who still think that this is the way to train horses to do their bidding. However, I'm happy to say that it took minutes to show him that he was being annoying by gently pushing him away before he could put his head in my face.

Once he realised what he was doing, he dropped his head downward and gave out a huge sigh. For this he was rewarded with a cuddle to tell him he was a good boy. A couple of sessions of this changed him into the perfect horse, not only with me but with the rest of the herd.

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ASTRO forecasts

by Tina Mews
what's happening in the heavens?

Aries

You have the energy and courage to enter new territory but need to be careful with pushing too quickly too far. Gently create a working balance between your personal drive for moving forward and your need of emotional stability. Unresolved family themes might be back on the agenda and you are asked to find new ways of illuminating the past.

Taurus

Mars, the planet of drive and energy, will be in your sun sign during July 6th – August 21st intensifying your mode of operation. Your patience might be tested on numerous occasions especially during the end of July and the beginning of August. Know your values and remain independent in your judgement and course of action.

Gemini

The first half of the month is favourable for making a courageous step towards your goals. It is essential that you are clear about your desires as "energy follows thought". Working hard on creating a solid financial base is part of this process because there might be changes and challenges in this area of your life.

Cancer

This is a favourable time to start a new cycle of activity and reaching towards your greater goals. The challenge is to find the right kind of support as experiences from the past that are still influencing your current reality. With the Black Moon Lilith in Cancer for the months to come it is important to remain focused on self-care and self-protection.

Leo

This is the end of your personal yearly cycle. It is a good time for finishing off loose ends and releasing what you do not need anymore for the next step. A new path may emerge at the end of the month with the Leo New Moon. However, this might not take place without some drama and crisis. Sudden breakthroughs can be achieved but be aware of too much self-will and impulsiveness.

Virgo

An open exchange of ideas and dreams with like-minded souls is needed. You may experience that your sense of belonging is strengthened as you can formulate a shared vision. However, you also could find yourself slightly out of place because your orientation has changed or is in the process of changing.

July

The Cancer New Moon occurred on June 29th in close conjunction with the Black Moon Lilith and squaring Jupiter in Aries. Aries aligns with the warrior archetype, is fiery and searches for new beginnings, new projects, new individual victories while Cancer signifies caring and sharing, needs personal security and a sense of belonging ranking community and protection of home and environment over individual achievements.

The tension between these two different streams of energy provides the themes of the weeks to come. Mars in Aries adds extra heat as the warrior planet forms a square aspect with Pluto which will be exact on July 2nd. Those with important placements in the cardinal signs Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn are especially affected by these vibes and might have to craft a working balance between pushing ahead with their personal agenda and aspirations as well as sustaining what provides feelings of safety and closeness.

Mars enters Taurus on July 6th (until August 21st) intensifying the affairs of this sign. Mars in Taurus has staying power, values strength and stability. On the other hand, unpredictable Uranus, the planet of change, approaches a conjunction with the north node over the coming weeks. Planets conjunct the lunar north node are accentuated and become more extreme in their expression. Uranus and the north node have been within close distance since late May. With Mars joining the pair we can expect a lot more volatility. This includes chaos at airports, transportation problems, accidents, further power and supply chain issues, instability on financial markets and even more erratic weather conditions. The disruptions have been ongoing for a while, but it builds in intensity into July and early August and may continue until the end of the year. The trio in Taurus will be squared by Saturn in Aquarius. The Saturn-Uranus square was the dominant astrological formation during 2021. Over the next 5 months, we will experience another wave of the archetypal conflict that exist between forces that call for freedom of the individual and self-determination (Uranus) and those that are restrictive and authoritative in their approach (Saturn). The question is how a much-needed quantum leap in consciousness can manifest without totally destroying what is worth keeping, and how far the current structures are able to bend and morph themselves towards change so that fresh seed ideas can fertilise and bring through a cultural renewal of our civilisation. It is fertile ground for disputes, protests and social-political unrest but also for tensions in our intimate relationships. With the heat rising, it might be helpful to practise calmness,

staying grounded, eating good food (Cancer) and feeding our nerves with honey (Venus) and drinking lemon balm tea (Jupiter)! Those born in the signs of Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, and Aquarius, especially when born in the second half of the sign, may experience the effects of this transit the most. On the positive, it might be a helpful period for making courageous steps into the unknown, leaving behind familiar territory.

The Capricorn Full Moon on July 14th is opposite the Cancer Sun. Capricorn emphasising duty, responsibility and authority. Cancer has to do with our feelings and needs. This Full Moon illuminates how well we are balancing the demands of our inner and outer lives. The Capricorn Moon approaching an agreeable sextile with Neptune and an intense conjunction with Pluto indicating that the energies of this Full Moon are best expressed through creative channels that recharge our batteries and revitalise our home life.

The next New Moon occurs in Leo and makes a close trine with Jupiter in Aries. Jupiter is about to begin its 4-month retrograde journey (until November 24th). Projects that we have started since mid-April with enthusiasm, optimism and confidence might need some adjustments over the months to come. It is now the time to focus on grounding our ideas in practical reality and testing out boundaries especially if we have over-extended our resources. Leo does not mind a good portion of drama and challenge as it keeps life interesting. Nevertheless, the above-mentioned conjunction between Mars, Uranus and the North Node which is active during this New Moon period might coincide with dynamic urges toward freedom and independence in the collective. It is a moment in time when sudden breakthroughs can be achieved but also when tendencies towards excessive self-will and impulsiveness are activated.



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Libra

Your enthusiasm for shared ideas and advancement in your interpersonal relationship might guide you onto a new path into the world. Open conversations are needed to clarify your motivations. Nevertheless, you are attracted to big ideas that reach beyond the familiar.

Scorpio

This is a great time for embarking on a vision quest and connecting with your spiritual self. Mars in Taurus in your relationship sector from July 6th until August 21st intensifies your connections with others. Take extra care of yourself to avoid impulsive reactions. Real breakthroughs are possible if you can let go of the desire to control the outcome.

Sagittarius

The weeks ahead are important for working out your agreements with others so that you know on whom you can rely for support. Nevertheless, you have a lot of energy at your disposal and might prefer to do things by yourself. Find enough time for play and creative activities that keep you happy and healthy.

Capricorn

Partnerships of all sorts are highlighted during this period. While the Black Moon Lilith is transiting your solar house of relationships (until early 2023) issues of inequality and power imbalances might be back on the agenda. With Lilith involved, there are things happening beneath the surface. Renewal of contracts or separation are both an option.

Aquarius

This is the time of the year when you need to take care of your mind, body and soul. Give yourself permission to take some time off to avoid exhaustion. Mars and Uranus in your home sector intensify domestic affairs and can lead to sudden breakdowns or breakthroughs. It could also be a time of deep insights that are life-changing especially around the end of July and beginning of August.

Pisces

The time has come when you need to express your creative potential through play and work. There might be a strong inner need to be seen and acknowledged for your talents. Do not hold back and shine in your own light. Being confident about what you do might also be helpful in attracting a new cycle of abundance.

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Moon magick

by Marilyn Devlin

We cross the midpoint of 2022... a year that promised both magick and challenge. I remember it well, as we crossed the threshold... the hope and possibility that a new year brings. Our on-going adventure through this evolutionary process of time and place... governing us all.

I wrote on my calendar as the new year opened... in capital letters and purple pen; with a smile on my face and knowing in my heart: "I can do it... I just don't know how yet."

We're alerted to the upheaval and volatility of the months ahead. To create a space for change the old space needs to be cleared... disturbing that part of us that reaches for consistency... something to reflect back the security we so need.

I remember those words... magick and challenge. I heard them loud and clear, as the new year burst onto the stage. I saw these two fast moving rivers... equal in strength and purpose. The influence of these rivers would control our space.

I remind myself of the magick. So easy to be sidetracked to the challenge... as much in our world laser-beams its focus on that very pinpoint. The multitude of pinpoints that create the image of our social reality.

New Moon in Cancer (home, family, security) sits at the midpoint juncture of this critical year. A New Moon births a new lunar cycle for the month ahead. But sitting so close to the midpoint of this year, her message shines its light over the entire second half.

I look to her for guidance. Her feminine wisdom. Her wise council. She activates our intuitive knowing. She guides us home to where we'll be safe. She soothes us with knowing we're never alone. She shows us the strength of our love and caring. She welcomes us aboard the safe ship through the storm.

We carry these all within us. And we attract them into our life. She flows the feminine through us... all those qualities that have diminished in our rush for the gold. In our stampede for 'success'.

There's a lot of feminine blessings shining down on us... penetrating our shields... opening our heart, reminding us of what we know. Reminding us of the source of strength inside us. Knowing that everything changes... Moon is the mistress of change and flow. Endings and beginnings, care and comfort. A home space for us all. The blessings of the Great Mother... that manifests in so many ways for us to access.

We live within a world of giving... of love, of protection, of wisdom. Of endless kindness. The extraordinary natural world that peaks in through our windows. She will not be tamed. Refuses to be controlled. Bit like the feminine herself.

We venture out... sit with her, be with her... immerse within her sacred space. We're transported to another world. A place always there... yet so often ignored. The magick that beats our very heart and soul... the knowing of which saves us. The glory of which is incomprehensible.

The Magick that's real. So real you can breathe it in... take large gulps and it never runs out. Never runs away... she's always there. Waiting for you... to embrace you, hold you, fill you... with the magick of the stars and the entirety of the universe itself.

Magick is real. It's not a made up thing. That's just for movies and magazines. Moon knows magick... she belongs to that world. She sits within... filled to the brim. And she brings that magick to Earth. She shines her own unique version of the whole on all of us all the time. Night and day.

My desire for 2022 was to learn about Integrity. To pull it into my life. My desire for this completing chapter of 2022 is to remember the Magick. To see it, feel it, know as the reality of my very existence.

Nimbin Trivia Time

by Eclectus

Questions

- Where in the Northern Rivers is the lyrically labelled locality of Green Pigeon? Pictured: Emerald Dove, *Chalcophaps indica*, courtesy *australiazoo.com.au*
- One each of the words lapidary, pardalote and purslane can be associated with animal, mineral or vegetable. Which is which?
- Where will you find lachrymal ducts?
- Why is a large vinyl music recording called an LP?
- Call me Ishmael. So begins what tale of relentless pursuit by whom of what quarry, written by what author in 1851? Take half a point for each correct answer and a bonus half point each if you can name the means of pursuit and Ishmael's mate.
- The Terminator* opens with Schwarzenegger as the T-800 cyborg assassin seeking to eliminate Sarah Connor, mother of the future John Connor, leader of the resistance against the rise of the machines. For all his (its?) cybersmarts, the T-800 opens the phone book and starts knocking off Sarah Connors in alphabetical order: phonebook, bang; phonebook, bang; heading relentlessly towards OUR Sarah Connor. What was her middle initial?
- To round out this little literary lark, can you name the author recently dogged by allegations of plagiarism, including works of Leo Tolstoy, F. Scott Fitzgerald and 2015 Nobel Laureate Svetlana Alexievich, among others, in his Miles Franklin-nominated 2021 book? Take a bonus point if you can name the novel.
- Which gemstone lends its name directly to a town in Central Queensland, and as a nickname to an Australian capital city and a North Atlantic nation?
- In which 2021/22 sporting world championship held in London did Peter "Snakebite" Wright, a Scot, stage a miraculous late recovery to take his second world title defeating Englishman, Michael "Bully Boy" Smith?
- If you found some pappardelle would you eat them, light them or lie on them?

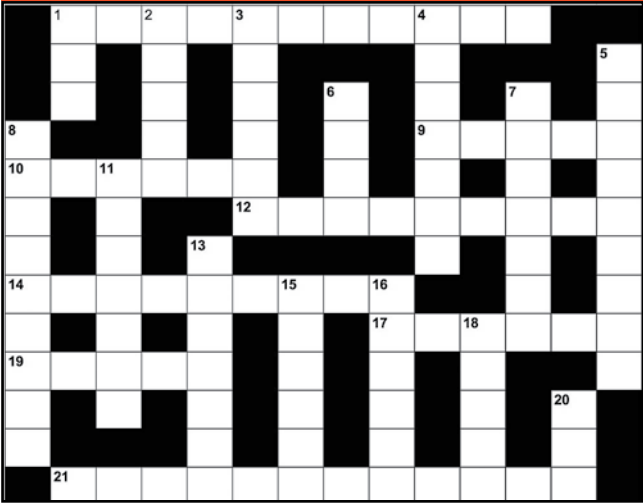


- Answers
- Home to some 155 people, Green Pigeon is only about 18 kilometres north northeast of Kyogle but it receives more than twice the rainfall. Nimbin is only about a kilometre further as the crow flies but it is nearly 50 kilometres by road.
 - Lapidary refers to the working of stone (mineral). Pardalotes are small lerp-loving birds (Genus *Pardalotus*) that spend their days in the tops of the trees and their nights underground in tunnels up to a metre deep (animal). Purslanes are flowering plants of the Genus *Portulaca* (vegetable).
 - Right under your nose! They channel the excess fluid such as tears from the inner corners of your eyes into the back of your nose.
 - LP stands for long play because they rotate at 33 1/3 revolutions per minute and are 12 inches in diameter, therefore they carry more information on a longer track than a 45 rpm "7" EP (extended play) with four or five tracks or a "single" (same size and speed but only one track on each side).
 - Written by Herman Melville and first published in London to a lukewarm reception, *The Whale* received some criticism for the disconnect between its narrative style and the death of its narrator at the end of the book. A revised edition, *Moby-Dick*, or *The Whale* was published in New York some months later with both Ishmael and the novel faring far better. Ahab, captain of the Pequod, sought revenge for the loss of his leg to the Great White Whale also known as Moby Dick. Ishmael's mate was the tattooed South Sea "cannibal" Queequeg.
 - John Hughes has demonstrated significant creative talent in his responses to the allegations ranging from saying the similarities were inadvertent and regrettable, to issuing a public apology, to "it's not what you take but what you do with it that counts." *The Dogs* has been removed from the Miles Franklin longlist.
 - Emerald, which is also a Queensland town while Sydney is sometimes referred to as the Emerald City and Ireland is known as the Emerald Isle.
 - Darts.
 10. Eat them. Pappardelle is a style of wide, flat pasta from Tuscany.

Nimbin Crossword

2022-07

by Novata



Across

- States/conditions markedly different from the norm (11)
9. The sea churns in the storm (5)
10. Grow by addition (6)
12. Abounding in streams or water (9)
14. Substance five times sweeter than sugar (9)
17. Memorable sayings taken as true by many people (6)
19. Hindu god of rain and thunder (5)
21. Acts of accomplishing something (12)
4. Porridge made of rolled oats (7)
5. Disregarding your own advantages and welfare over those of others (9)
6. Slightly open (4)
7. Striking with the fist (7)
8. Measure/standard used for comparison (9)
11. Small waterfall (7)
13. Dry red Italian table wine from Tuscany (7)
15. Seaport on the Don River in the European part of Russia (6)
16. Highly incendiary liquid used in bombs and flame-throwers (6)
18. Association of nations dedicated to economic and political co-operation in SE Asia (init.) (5)
20. Fluid product of inflammation (3)

Down

- Of the highest quality (3)
- Showing keen interest or intense desire (5)
- Acute viral disease of the nervous system of warm-blooded animals (6)

Solution: Page 33

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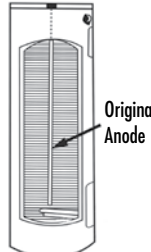
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She says

So you've discovered the definitive List. It is the most authentic insight into her you can get. It not only tells you about yourself – the attributes that you have and thus your position as her boyfriend – but also where you fall short of being her perfect man.

More importantly it shines a light on her. What aspects on that list are fulfilling parts of herself that she hasn't got? Needs, aspirations and dreams she wants someone else to supply?

Are your looks exactly as she described? You could be her 'type' but it might only be skin deep, which indicates a shallowness on her part.

Of course, you might be doing the same.

Has she listed the important qualities humans needed in good relationships like patience, tolerance, humour and the ability to forgive? If none of these appear, pick a fight with her and pay attention. Has she listed monogamy? Some people are polygamous, so this should be discussed.

Is the list all about material possessions? Her dream house, car, jewellery etc? If you're the same, then that's fine, if you want someone a bit deeper, run away now.

Does the list go on and on and on? If so, she may be pernickety. You should test her by doing annoying things like leaving your dirty plate in the wrong place and see how she responds.

Lists can be helpful when trying to identify what type of guy one would like to 'attract' rather than run off with the first person who makes a pass. But if a woman is unrealistic about what real men are like, and rejects a lovely man because he's missing some qualities on her List, then it could seal a lonely fate.

Being a non-smoker was high on my own list, but not at the top. In my wedding speech I told everyone that Norm was the man who made me lower my bottom line. However a scary bout of pneumonia solved that problem. A classic case of be careful of what you wish for because he very nearly died.

As for snooping, well I'm in two minds about that. On one hand, it could be considered creepy and an invasion of privacy. On the other hand, if Norm did this I would be impressed

The List

Dear SSHS,
When my girlfriend was out, I looked through her diary and found a list about what she wants in a man, and it scared the bejesus out of me because I certainly don't come up to scratch.

– Snoop Dog, Wanganui

by Uncle Norm & Aunty Maj

with his attention and interest to know my deepest thoughts, because he normally doesn't give a shit.

Snoop, you're going to have to fess up and admit you were snooping, otherwise you will live in fear of accidentally mentioning something you shouldn't know. Does she have anything on that list about trust?

Never laugh at your partner's choices. You're one of them.

HE says

Dear Snoop, pour yourself a vodka or whatever your preferred poison is and calm down. So, you found The List. Don't worry, they all do it. When us fellas have got nothing better to do, we play with our balls. Women, on the other hand, make lists.

My wife still tolerates me after 25 years, just. Probably because the top item on her list was the ability to play the piano. Thank goodness all those years of piano lessons finally paid off!

I can tell you, all these qualities women seek in a man just don't exist in one human being. It's downright impossible. Look at all those Hollywood hunks. They're all so handsome and heroic in the movies but in real life they go changing wives as often as their underpants. And worse.

Let's face it, men are bastards. Dirty bastards, lazy bastards, fat bastards, arrogant bastards. You name it. We're bad.

If we were to make a list of the qualities we seek in a woman, there would only be three or four things on it, and most women probably only have two of those attributes and would think the others are totally disgusting.

Stop worrying, you must have some redeeming qualities for her to keep you around. Until she finds out you were snooping.

My girlfriend says I don't respect her privacy. At least that's what she wrote in her diary.

Send your relationship problems to:
normanappel@westnet.com.au

Julian Assange's stroke

by John Jiggins

Concerns have surfaced about a UK cover-up of Julian Assange's medical condition and the mini-stroke he suffered in October last year.

On 27th October, the first day of the US appeal in the UK High Court against a lower court decision not to extradite him, Assange suffered a mini-stroke.

Three Australian journalists. Joe Lauria and Cathy Vogan from Consortium News, along with legendary former SBS news anchor, Mary Kostakidis, watched the hearing via videolink from Australia.

In a recent post, the trio raised questions about whether the UK High Court covered up Julian's medical condition during the trial.

Cathy Vogan from Consortium News said:

"We saw Julian in the lead-up if not the actual event of his minor stroke. It happened during the first day of the High Court hearing."

"The defence lawyer announced that Julian had received heavy medication and wouldn't make it, but Julian turned up an hour later."

"This is a mysterious circumstance because we didn't hear about Julian's stroke until mid-December."

Former SBS news presenter, Mary Kostakidis, has the same concerns. She said, "It is likely that Julian had the stroke just prior to the hearing and his inability to animate the right side of his face and his inability to hold his head up without the support of his right palm would have been the effect of the mini-stroke."

"His lawyers were told he would not attend the



Courtesy abc.net.au

video link due to an increase in medication that was unexplained and which judge Fitzgerald announced at the beginning of the hearing.

"I subsequently asked Stella (Assange's wife) about this, and she told me that Julian had wanted to attend but the prison had not allowed it."

"It occurs to me that the very reason an attempt was made to ensure that he did not appear, and the court were not able to see him or ignored him, was precisely so his newly deteriorated condition and its possible cause would not become an issue. That was certainly the result."

The High Court judges ruled in favour of the US, accepting the US argument that the trial judge Baraitser erred because she should have sought diplomatic assurances from the United States that Assange would be kept in conditions that would not trigger suicide.

After the US glibly gave some meaningless assurances, the UK High Court signed off on the extradition of Julian Assange to receive a 'fair trial' in a court in Virginia that always convicts.

Now that the UK Home Secretary has decided to extradite Assange, pressure is building on the Albanese government to make strong representations on his behalf.

A home for storytelling

by Leanne Logan

As we bunker down for winter, the storytelling residency at Cawongla Playhouse has moved into its sixth month, and brought with it a strong desire to find a storytelling 'home'.

So we decided to explore the concept of 'home' with the preschool children. Timely, too, with winter making the comforts of 'home' all the more important, and our thoughts often with those in our wider community who are still living makeshift lives following the floods.

In conversation with Bowie, 4, as she drew a delightful and colourful "apple home", I was humbled by one so young with her finger firmly on the empathy pulse.

"If you don't even have a home, you don't even have shelter," Bowie explained. "You don't have any food to put anywhere, just on the ground. You won't have a bedroom, or a Mum or a Dad."

When asked what it was that made her own home so special, Bowie thoughtfully replied: "It just is."



Bowie adds final touches to her "apple home" drawing.

Reflecting on story, I've realised so many are based around 'home'. Here in Australia, we are lucky to have the First Nations' term 'country' – 'juga' in Widjabul/Wia-bal – to encapsulate all that relates to home and belonging.

When we care for country – ngali

garima mala juga – we are literally caring for everything we call home. Which is everything.

When the children at preschool recently saw images of homes and permanent settlements by our First Nations' people, their fascination and curiosity was palpable. They discussed the designs, the materials, the comfort rating...

And when all that was done, Albie, nearly 5, excitedly showed me the huge and detailed home that he and Finn had designed and built all morning out of blocks and all sorts of other bits and pieces.

"Leanne!" Albie suddenly exclaimed, "you could tell your story here today! You could sit here, and the audience can sit there!"

A director in the making? A future engineer? Who knows? What I did know was that I'd been invited into an ephemeral storytelling home – one that hadn't existed before that day and wouldn't exist in a few days time – by a boy with a generous heart, a willingness to share, and an excitement for exploring everything about 'home'.

Sydney Visual Design and Aboriginal Studies excursion

by Piaf Rengger Thorpe

During week 8, the Stage 6 Visual Design and the Aboriginal Studies classes at Nimbin Central School embarked on an excursion to Sydney.

We all caught the train down overnight where the students got to experience the novelty of attempting to sleep sitting up while brimming with excitement.

We arrived at 7am and got straight into our day's activities. It was a very brisk morning as we began to explore the city.

We meandered through Darling Harbour on our way to Barangaroo Point where Mr Wheeler talked through the history of Bennelong and a dreaming story of the harbour.

The first gallery we visited was the MCA where students got an interesting perspective on idea of place as we examined artworks from their permanent collection, bringing together different concepts of time and place.

We spent the rest of the day exploring the Botanical Gardens and recovering from the train ride.

That night we ventured into China Town for dinner and then attended *SandSong*,

performed by the Bangara Dance Theatre at the Opera House.

Students were in awe of the production and the sheer feelings that the piece evoked. This was an incredible experience for us all.

The next day we attended the NSW Gallery where we explored the Archibald and Sulman prize. This was a great experience as the winner depicts a local artist. Students were again moved by the vast array of ways that portraits were depicted.

We also saw Daniel Body's *Treasure Island*, which explored the concepts of colonial histories in Australia from an Indigenous perspective.

During the rest of our stay we spent evenings dancing to the live music around the city and viewing Vivid.

It was a beautiful experience where students found exciting possibilities for the future and experienced a small piece of city life.





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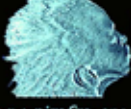
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Nimbin Crossword Solution

From Page 31

A	B	E	R	R	A	T	I	O	N	S		
C		A		A			A				U	
E		G		B		A		T		B		N
Y		E		I		J		M	O	I	L	S
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New referees for the Nimbin Headers

by Mark Wright

The Nimbin Headers Football Club is so very proud of three young men from within their ranks that have recently gained their referee accreditation. Luano Gottschlich (13), Tamati White (13) and Brighton Courtney (14) who all play together in our Grade 14 team, all started their officiating over the weekend of 25-26th June.

Luano refereed the Grade 12 game at the Headers on Saturday, then Brighton and Tamati did the assistant refereeing for the Women's 5th and 3rd grade games on the Sunday.

They all did a very professional job and it was wonderful to see encouraging support for them from players, coaches and spectators.

This brings the number of new referees from within the club to five in the last 12 months, with Phil Courtney and Mark Wright also recently gaining their accreditation.

This is great for the club to be seen to be providing much-needed match officials to the over-stretched small number of referees available to officiate local games.

It's fantastic to now have a large pool of local officials to draw on; no game at Nimbin should lack a referee for the foreseeable future.



Tamati White, Brighton Courtney and Luano Gottschlich



Brighton and Phil Courtney, and Tamati White

For young players, it helps their development as players, getting a very different perspective on the game. It also lets them know just how difficult the job of refereeing is, and will build a healthy respect for match officials as their soccer careers develop.

All codes of football are struggling to attract people to refereeing. The main reason cited is the lack of respect towards match officials and the resulting appalling behaviour directed against them.

These three fine young men, and all referees, need our support and encouragement and to be given due respect for doing what can be a very

important, difficult and testing role within the game.

Without match officials, the game as we know it simply doesn't work.

The Headers start our encouragement and support by gifting each of the new young refs a new Headers hoodie, and on game days all referees and assistants get a free pie and drink from our canteen.

Another bonus for youth referees is that that the pay is pretty good, tax free and a much better hourly rate than working at fast food chains.

These three lads now get paid to be part of the beautiful game and performing a very important role within it.



Headers men's 5th Division under attack from Thistles in their first home game of the season which they lost 5-0.

Backflips to bullying



by Dian Whitney

Backflips to Bullying, an awesome team of acrobats, visited Nimbin Central School on Friday 24th June and the Primary students thoroughly enjoyed the performance. Not only were the performers highly skilled

and engaging, they were also very funny.

The role plays were relevant and challenged students to problem solve when discussing the very important issues linked to bullying.

Having students involved was fantastic and the backflips were amazing.

Celebrating the Winter Solstice

by Akash Pett

The children of Tuntable Falls Preschool and their families joined with the children of Tuntable Falls Community School in their magical Winter Solstice Celebration.

It is an annual event that includes a lantern parade, singing and dancing, a bonfire and soup.

It is a celebration of this special time of year, as well as celebrating the wonderful children, their families, and the community that holds them.

As an educator at the preschool, I have loved being a part of the preparations of guiding the children with their lantern-making and learning the songs passed



down from past celebrations.

The children and educators have been enthusiastically learning the songs and practising the actions and movements to go along with the words.

In the weeks leading up to the celebration, the preschoolers each made a lantern using brightly

coloured wax paper which they cut into pieces and glued on to a jar.

We then attached some brightly coloured wire which made a strong stable handle for them to hold, and we put a tea light in each one.

The joy of carrying their own hand-made special lantern with the fire inside in

the parade was shining from the children's faces.

After the lantern carrying and the singing and circle dancing, a bonfire was lit and soup was shared.

Tuntable Falls Preschool is open Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Enquiries are welcome for children aged 2.5 to 5 years.

What blocks you?

Psychic development

with Magenta Appel-Pye

Psychic development is as normal as any other type of human development. Although some people are naturally gifted, most start their journey after 40.

Unfortunately, many people never develop their full potential for mainly two reasons: fear; and lack of faith.

Fear is an obvious one. We all remember the witch burnings. The churches and evil people used this excuse as an easy way to get rid of gifted healers and intelligent spiritual leaders, usually women.

People worry about mental illness if they hear unexplained voices. Thankfully clairaudience is usually the last gift to develop. However you may hear your guides if you are in danger.

This in itself is a great reason to develop a working relationship with your guides. It allows you to move

forward fearlessly.

Many people are afraid if they open psychically that all sorts of energies will come to them, including malevolent ones. They are also afraid of what others will think of them, especially if they come from a family or community who says you cannot directly access the unseen and unknown.

These are all valid fears and it is good to be cautious. This is why it's recommended to have a trusted, grounded teacher to help you learn to open slowly and safely with a toolkit of skills that you know how to use well.

Remember to ask for protection before opening through meditation or prayer. I ask to attract only the highest and best, and that El Morya shield and guard my energy field.

Having faith in yourself and a higher power, whatever you choose to call it, is also necessary. You must believe that you are worthy of connecting and communicating with your guides, angels and ascended beings. You have to love yourself enough to know that you are running the show.



This is why it usually takes a long time to develop. You have every right to ask questions, to check that these entities are benevolent and have come to help.

Knowing you can set rules, which can change as you develop, makes you feel safe, ie: "I only contact those who are here for my highest and best". Let them know that you only want to be contacted when it is convenient for you.

When you know you can set boundaries you will feel safe to open gently like a blossoming flower. That is a joyous and very beneficial experience.

magentaappelpye.com

A Yellow Submarine

Following a new three-way defence pact, AUKUS, Australia is to purchase a small fleet of nuclear submarines.

A stunning sequence, unheralded news, the aim, to impress with counter views. For threats in the Pacific, stability, the mindless logic of futility. The battleship syndrome, be offensive, cheaper, safer, to be defensive, drones, patrol boats, not old mythology, electronic, cyber technology.

All to impress, not much information, a timeframe coming with confirmation, and detailing decades for the making, by then outmoded, ready for the taking. Questions, building, establishing a base, decisions on the run, with undue haste ignoring the risks to our sovereignty, eroding our nation's integrity.

The public response is tepid, passive, though the consequences may be massive, as the front line in a big power war, and a nuclear target, whatever for? China, furious, our neighbours disturbed, Indonesia, Malaysia, also heard. Afghanistan, Iraq, previous fear, replaced, another, immediate, here.

We all live in a yellow submarine, a diffused murky world is what is seen, countries, extremists of whatever hue, the danger remains, essentially, you. When will we discern to look and learn, before the world itself will melt and burn? It is within each of us where truth dwells, we need to awaken, all living cells.

– John Stuart

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\$665,000 Agent: Sam



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Lillian Rock 10acres
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Cawongla 44.97HA
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and waterfalls. Ample parking and storage
offered with large machinery shed

5 2 2 **\$1,550,000** Agent: Sam

